



AHEAD OF LS POLLS, UPENDRA KUSHWAHA SEEKS BLESSINGS FROM 'ELDER BROTHER' NITISH KUMAR - PAGE - 9

JPSC aspirants to stage protest

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 27: On Wednesday, Surya Singh Besra, student leader and Jharkhand Youth Association convenor Imam Safi jointly held a press conference on JPSC irregularities and political issues in the Press Club and said that irregularities have been done in haste in the 11th JPSC.

Despite protest from the students, instead of canceling the examination, wrong answer keys were hastily released.

After the JSSC CGL paper leak, the students of Jharkhand are in dire straits due to the irregularities in the JPSC examination and on coming April 1, more than one lakh candidates will join the siege of the JPSC office.

Surya Singh Besra considered the irregularities and arbitrariness of the 11th JPSC PT exam as a serious matter and supported the student movement on April 1. (W-rg)

Former Cong leader shot dead in Palamu



Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 27: In Chainpur, Palamu, criminals have shot dead a former Congress leader. The incident is being reported on Wednesday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Rajmohan Polu. The body of another person has also been recovered along with him. Which has not been identified yet. The criminals committed

the crime in front of his house. At present the reasons for the murder have not been known. The police is busy investigating the matter. Palamu SP, Sadar SDPO Mani Bhushan Prasad, Chainpur police station in-charge Sonu Kumat Choudhary, Inspector Jeetram Mahali and many police officers reached the spot and talked to the people nearby and got information about the

Man shot dead in fight during Holi party

Medininagar, Mar 27 (IANS): A man was allegedly shot dead by his cousin at a Holi party in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said on Wednesday. The incident happened at Kalyanpur village in Chainpur police station area on Tuesday night during a party organised by their family. A fight broke out between the two cousins, identified as Ajay Chaudhary and Manoj Chaudhary, during the party, Medininagar SDPO Manibhusan Prasad said. "Ajay first attacked Manoj with a scissor, and then took out a pistol and shot



him twice. Manoj was taken to the Medinirai Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead," he said. Ajay is missing fol-

lowing the incident, he added. Manoj had a criminal background and was wanted in eight cases, including that of a roadside robbery, police said.

matter. SP said that the deceased Rajmohan Polu had earlier shot and killed a labourer. The police arrested him and sent him to jail. He came out of jail only a few days ago, later the court

sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. He had come out of jail only a few days ago. He was a resident of Chainpur police station area. Before this he was also associated

with the Congress Party. It is said that on Wednesday afternoon some criminals reached his house, shot him and ran away. Hearing the sound of the bullet, people gathered nearby. (W-rg)

Working to ensure money looted from poor in Bengal, attached by ED, is returned to them: PM Modi

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said on Wednesday that he is working to ensure that the money "looted" from poor people in West Bengal and attached by the Enforcement Directorate is returned to them.

Modi made this assertion in a telephonic conversation with Amrita Roy, a member of erstwhile royalty and BJP candidate against TMC's Mahua Moitra in Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency, BJP leaders said. "PM Modi told 'Rajmata' Amrita Roy that he is exploring legal options to ensure that the money looted from the poor goes back to them through whatever assets and money the ED has attached from the corrupt," a BJP leader said. Modi said on the one hand the BJP is committed to uprooting corruption in the country and on the other all the corrupt have come together to save each other, BJP leaders said. He expressed confidence that West Bengal will vote for "Parivartan" (change) in the state. The alleged corruption of the state's ruling Trinamool Congress leaders is one of the main planks of the BJP in the state, as it has highlighted the arrest of some of them, including former minister ParthaChatterjee, and recovery of large amounts of money and other assets from them to target its rivals. The BJP had won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2019 in what was seen as a surge in its fortunes and it is looking to boost its tally this time round.



NDA will win all 40 seats in Bihar: Deepak Prakash

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 27: Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash has claimed that this time NDA will win all 40 seats in Bihar. Along with this he said that once Narendra Modi government will be formed in the country, NDA will cross the 400 mark. Notably, Deepak Prakash has been included by BJP in the list of star campaigners for Bihar Lok Sabha elections.



Bihar is a very important state in view of the Lok Sabha elections. This is a state which can change the course of general elections at any time. Bihar is the fourth largest state in the country in terms of seats. After Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal, Bihar has the highest number of 40 Lok Sabha seats. Votes will be cast in a total of 7 phases in Bihar. Bharatiya Janata Party has released the list of 40 star campaigners for Bihar Lok Sabha elections. The list of star campaigners includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, several Union Ministers as well as former BJP state president from Jharkhand and Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash. (W-rg)

Former BJP MP in talks with Cong

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 27: Former BJP MP Ram Chahal Chaudhary may join Congress. However, he has put a condition of Ranchi Lok Sabha ticket for joining. In order to join Congress, he went to Delhi to meet senior Congress leaders and also met senior Congress leaders there. But at present Congress does not want to make any promise regarding the ticket for Ranchi seat. Actually, Ram Tahal Chaudhary has put a condition for joining Congress. He wants a ticket from Ranchi Lok Sabha from INDIA Alliance but Congress is not ready to take any decision on this yet. A senior leader of Jharkhand Congress said that if Ram Tahal Choudhary wants to join Congress unconditionally, he is welcome, but at present Congress cannot promise him a ticket. However, the name of the candidate has not been announced by the Grand Alliance. But the news is coming from inside that Congress is in a mood to make Subodh Kant Sahay contest from Ranchi seat. (W-rg)

ED issues third summons to Mahua Moitra in FEMA violation case

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a third summons to Trinamool Congress leader MahuaMoitra for questioning in connection with a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violation case, a source said on Wednesday. Moitra, who was expelled from Lok Sabha last year in December, has been asked to appear before the ED on Thursday at the ED Headquarters in Delhi, according to sources. The summons comes after she failed to comply with two earlier summons, missing scheduled appearances on March 11 and February 19. ED sources said that Moitra has been asked to furnish certain documents pertinent to foreign investments linked to the ongoing investigation. Moitra had been embroiled in a controversy over allegations of receiving cash in exchange for putting up queries in the Parliament on behalf of businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

IFTAR (28 March) : 06:04
SEHRI (29 March) : 04:22



No court relief for Arvind Kejriwal, next hearing on April 3

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to give interim relief to Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal and issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate on his petition seeking immediate release.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy scam, had moved the high court challenging his arrest and subsequent remand to the ED's custody.

During the hearing on Wednesday, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju appearing for the ED submitted that Kejriwal's counsel had not given a copy of the petition to the agency. The chief minister moved

Excise policy case



the petition on March 23, but the agency got the copy only on March 26, he said. Following this, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said she would issue notice to the agency and posted the matter for hearing on April 3. "The Directorate of

Enforcement will ensure that replies are filed to the main petition as well as the application for interim release of the petitioner by 02.04.2024 and copies of the same are provided in digitized form as well as hard copy to the learned

counsel for the petitioner," the order said. Senior advocate AbhishekSinghvi, appearing for Kejriwal, contended the arrest of a sitting chief minister on the cusp of elections was against the basic structure of the Constitution. "Object of the arrest was not to find material but to disable me and my party. My prayer is, release me now," he argued.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party leader's remand will end on Thursday and he is likely to be produced before the Rouse Avenue Courts.

The ED can either seek an extension of the chief minister's custodial remand or seek court directions for sending him into judicial custody.

Scare at Kolkata airport as collision between IndiGo and Air India Express aircrafts narrowly averted

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) An IndiGo aircraft narrowly avoided a collision with an Air India Express aircraft at the runway of Kolkata's NetajiSubhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Wednesday, sending shivers down the spines of 169 passengers aboard the latter plane. According to reports, the IndiGo aircraft was awaiting clearance to enter the runway when it inadvertently brushed the wingtip of the Air India Express plane at around 10:30 a.m. The close call sparked immediate alarm, prompting the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to initiate a comprehensive investigation into the matter. "A minor graze between a taxiing IndiGo aircraft and that of another carrier was reported from Kolkata Airport. The aircraft returned to the bay for inspection and necessary action, as per protocol. Consequently, IndiGo flight 6E 6152 between Kolkata and Darbhanga has been delayed," an IndiGo spokesperson said.

"Refreshments were provided to all passengers and an alternate aircraft has been arranged to minimise delay and inconvenience to the passengers.

BJP's Dilip Ghosh, Congress's Supriya Shrinat get EC notice over 'undignified' remarks

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The Election Commission on Wednesday issued separate show-cause notices to BJP leader DilipGhosh and Congress's SupriyaShrinat over their controversial remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and actor-politician KanganaRanaut, respectively. The poll panel has found that the remarks made by both Ghosh and Shrinat are 'undignified and in bad taste' and prima facie violative of the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. Both of them have been given time till 5 pm on Friday to explain why action should not be taken against them. Ghosh, the former state BJP president, was heard



mocking the family background of Banerjee in a purported video clip. The senior leader apologised on Wednesday for his remarks after the party sought an explanation from him. Ghosh claimed that he had only protested Banerjee's political statements. Shrinat courted controversy after an alleged objectionable post on Ranaut appeared on her social media account.

Pay more toll tax from April 1 next

Ranchi, March 27 (IANS): Toll tax rates will be increased in Jharkhand from April 1, 2025. The Union Road Highway Ministry has decided to increase toll rates by a maximum of 2.6 percent. In light of this, toll tax on state highways will also be increased. Toll will increase by about Rs 5 to Rs 20. A proposal for toll increase is being prepared by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which will be finalized by the end of this month. The toll increase will be applicable in all 16 toll plazas in the state. That is, from April 1, more toll will have to be paid to drive vehicles on Jharkhand's highway NH 33 Ranchi-Patna-Jamshedpur Road, GT Road and other important roads. Drivers will also have to bear the burden of additional amount. Toll will also increase for cars, jeeps, vans and other small vehicles. Apart from this, toll for light commercial vehicles, mini buses, buses, trucks and six-wheelers may also increase by 2.6 percent.

BLA claims killing more than 30 Pakistani soldiers, issues stern warning to China

Islamabad, March 27 (IANS) The Baloch Liberation Army claimed killing more than 30 Pakistani soldiers as it targeted PNS Siddique, the country's second-largest naval air station located in Turbat and warned China on its "illegal" settlements and projects in Balochistan.

In a statement, the group said that its Majeed Brigade successfully concluded the fifth phase of "Operation ZirPahazag" to "retaliate against ongoingBaloch genocide" and save the

region from Chinese "occupation and exploitation". "Majeed Brigade of Baloch Liberation Army, in the fifth phase of Operation ZirPahazag, last night (Monday) at ten o'clock, attacked the occupied army's Naval Airbase, PNS Siddique, engaging the enemy till morning and successfully achieving the objectives of the operation by killing more than thirty enemy soldiers," BLA spokesperson, JeeyandB aloch, stated.

The statement came as



local media reports in Islamabad said that the attack killed one paramilitary soldier while security forces on the Pakistan side

killed all five attackers in retaliatory fire.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the "terrorists"

attempted to attack PNS Siddique in Turbat and the assault was "foiled" due to the "swift and effective response by the troops".

Baloch said that while bringing the operation to its culmination, four fighters of the Majeed Brigade were killed, identifying them as Ayub alias Doda, Khalif alias Islam, Wajid alias Nodan, and Murad alias Farhad.

He added that their fighters "broke through the strong security barricade of the enemy army's Naval

Airbase PNS Siddique and entered successfully, neutralising one enemy bunker and destroying two drones of the enemy army".

"When the ammunition ran out, all four fighters embraced martyrdom with their last bullets," Baloch said, adding, "These were just four fidaayees; currently, there are hundreds of trained men and women fidaayees in the ranks of Majeed Brigade, who are always ready to strike effective blows against the enemy".

Holi celebrations at Vidyapati Tower, Ramnagar



Jamshedpur, March 27: Holi festivities were organized at Vidyapati Tower in Ramnagar, Kadma in the form of a Holi Milan ceremony. The event featured a colorful cultural program and an enthralling dance competition, bringing together the community in celebration. Women participants marked the occasion with enthusiasm, including notable attendees Lakshmi Singh, Archana Singh, Deepa Srivastava, Nikki Jha, Sonali Pal, Lalita Mishra, and Neelam Agarwal, among others. (w/gsd)

BJP's Lok Sabha candidate Geeta Koda engages with villagers in Mazgaon Block

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, March 27: Today, Bharatiya Janata Party's Lok Sabha candidate, MP Geeta Koda, actively engaged with the public in various villages of Mazgaon block under the Mazgaon Legislative Assembly. Participating in the Chud Sthapana program at the temple in Ambaimarcha village of Mazgaon, Geeta Koda was warmly welcomed by villagers and party workers, who greeted her with garlands in accordance with local customs. During her



interaction with the villagers, Geeta Koda conveyed greetings from the Prime Minister of India,

Narendra Modi, and directly engaged with the public on various developmental initiatives.

She highlighted the efforts of the Modi government, particularly emphasizing initiatives aimed at

improving the lives of tribals, the poor, and the youth. Geeta Koda underscored the government's commitment to providing free ration, gas connections, and vaccination against COVID-19, extending these benefits for the next five years. Emphasizing Modi's dedication to inclusive development, Geeta Koda urged villagers to support him in the upcoming elections, urging them to vote for the BJP symbol, Kamal Phool (Lotus). Geeta Koda also assured villagers that every

effort would be made to address their concerns and solve their problems. Present at the event were former MLA cum State Vice President of the party Badkunwar Gagrai, former District President Satish Puri, candidate Bhushan Pat Pingua, District Council member Lankeshwar Tamsay, Anil, along with hundreds of senior party workers and thousands of villagers, demonstrating strong community engagement and support for the BJP's electoral campaign in Mazgaon. (w/nkm)

Preparations for Lok Sabha General Elections 2024 reviewed

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, March 27: Under the guidance of District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary, a comprehensive meeting was convened at the auditorium within the West Singhbhum District Collectorate premises to assess the readiness for the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024. The meeting saw the active participation of Assistant Electoral Officers-cum-Sub-Divisional Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers-cum-Block Development Officers, connecting via video conferencing. During the session, the District Election Officer underscored the imperative of ensuring the seamless functioning of the Inter State Checkpoint within the district boundaries, emphasizing the maintenance of law and order across the region. Additionally, directives were issued for rigorous monitoring and inspection of all vehicles traversing through the checkpoint.



Furthermore, detailed guidelines were provided concerning the provision of essential amenities such as drinking water supply, restroom facilities, mobile charging points, and electricity at all designated polling centers and identified cluster buildings. The district administration was promptly tasked with furnishing a comprehensive report pertaining to the physical examination of water towers in rural areas, availability of water tankers in Panchayats, and rectification of any discrepancies in the names of polling stations and buildings. The meeting also included

a review of the updated status regarding the verification process of absentee voters, including the receipt of Form-6 by the Booth Level Officer stationed at each polling station. In attendance at the Collectorate auditorium meeting were notable officials including Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kamleshwar Narayan, Assistant Collector Shruti Rajalakshmi, District Land Acquisition Officer Enos Lily Lakra, Deputy Election Officer Bandhan Laung, among others. (w/nkm)

Colorful celebrations mark Holi in Chaibasa

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, March 27: Chaibasa witnessed vibrant hues and joyful festivities as residents celebrated the festival of Holi with great fervor. From dawn till late into the night, the town was engulfed in the spirit of the occasion. Organized by the Marwari Sammelan Chaibasa branch, Holika Mangal (Dahan) was a significant highlight. Sponsored by the S.R. Rungta Group, the event commenced with morning prayers at Shambhu Temple premises, culminating in the symbolic burning of Holika, signifying the triumph of good over evil. Devotees fervently participated, chanting praises to Prahlad, the epitome of righteousness.



The celebrations continued into the night, with devotees thronging the temple premises until the early hours. On the following day, Chharandi (Rangotsav) marked the continuation of festivities, with locals gathering to

revel in the joyous atmosphere. In the evening, devotees offered Gulaal to Lord Shri at the temple, continuing the age-old tradition. The Rungta family, longstanding patrons of the celebrations, extended

their gracious hospitality by hosting a Gulaal ceremony at the Rungta Guest House. Amidst blessings from elders, arrangements for Thandai further added to the festive cheer. (w/nkm)

Foot overbridge construction accelerated

Jamshedpur, March 27: The construction work on the new foot overbridge at Tatanagar railway station has been expedited in compliance with the directives of Chakradharpur Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Arun J Rathore. The aim is to ensure the commencement of the new foot overbridge for passenger convenience by July. It has been reported that on March 24, the DRM initiated a campaign to assess passenger amenities at the station. During this inspection, the DRM issued instructions for the immediate completion of the foot overbridge construction work. Additionally, a new escalator has been installed on platform number one as part of the ongoing efforts to enhance passenger facilities at the station. (w/nkm)

Preparations in Chakradharpur Assembly constituency

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, March 27: In adherence to the directives of the West Singhbhum District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, a comprehensive review meeting was convened in Podahat-Chakradharpur to assess the progress of preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha (General) Elections-2024. The meeting, chaired by 56 Assistant Election Officers-cum-Sub-Divisional Officers in the Chakradharpur (ST)



Assembly Constituency, aimed to ensure meticulous planning and execution of election-related tasks. During the session, detailed guidelines were provided following an update on the status of essential facilities

at polling stations, including amenities for differently-abled voters, senior citizens (85+), and door-to-door list verification. The discussion encompassed various aspects crucial for the

smooth conduct of elections. In attendance were key officials including the Circle Officer of Chakradharpur, Block Officer of Bandgaon, Executive Engineers responsible for Drinking Water, Building Construction, and Electricity, along with the Block Education Extension Officer and Sector Officer. Their presence underscored the collaborative effort across departments to streamline election preparations and uphold the democratic process. (w/nkm)

Yellow alert issued for heavy rain in Jharkhand on March 30 and 31

Jamshedpur, March 27: The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds in Jharkhand on March 30 and 31. The forecast indicates that the weather will deteriorate once again in the state, with light to moderate rain expected at various locations during this period. According to the Meteorological Department, a cyclonic circulation is currently active in northeastern Assam and its surrounding areas. Additionally, a trough extending from North Karnataka to Vidarbha has been observed. Furthermore, a fresh western disturbance is anticipated to become active in the western Himalayan region starting from March 29. Moreover, a cyclonic circulation is positioned over western Rajasthan and adjacent areas. These weather phenomena are expected to contribute to the changing weather conditions in Jharkhand, attributed to a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal. The forecast suggests that the inclement weather will persist for two days, with the possibility of light to moderate rain occurring at isolated places across Jharkhand on March 30 and 31. Additionally, thunderstorms may occur in certain areas during this period. The Meteorological Department has advised residents to remain vigilant regarding thunderstorm incidents during adverse weather conditions.

Holikotsav brings vibrancy and joy to Seraikela and surrounding areas

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 27: The vibrant festival of colors, Holi, brought boundless joy and enthusiasm to the rural landscapes of Seraikela and Sini, painting the surroundings with hues of merriment. The festivities unfolded with exuberance spanning across both Monday and Tuesday, as revelers soaked in the spirit of Holi with fervor and delight. The celebratory fervor was palpable from the crack of dawn on both days, as streets and intersections came alive with the bustling energy of Holi enthusiasts. Heartfelt greetings and colorful exchanges filled the air, with joyous embraces and well-wishes resonating throughout the community. From vibrant splashes of colored powders to playful water gun battles,



every corner echoed with the jubilant laughter of participants. The morning witnessed spirited gatherings of individuals across all age groups, forming lively groups and engaging in spirited Holi revelries with their peers. From exuberant children to seasoned elders and spirited youths, each group added its unique charm to the festivities, spreading joy and laughter as they danced to the tunes of Holi songs and exchanged colorful

sweet treats to indulge in. In a modern twist to traditional celebrations, the rhythmic beats of drums and manjiras were replaced by lively DJ music, adding an electrifying ambience to the festivities. Despite physical distances, the spirit of camaraderie thrived as social media platforms buzzed with heartfelt Holi wishes, connecting friends and acquaintances from near and far in a virtual celebration of togetherness. (w/nkm)

Conclusion of 10-day Acharya training class under Ekal Abhiyan

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 27: The 10-day residential Acharya training class in Seraikela zone, organized by Ekal Abhiyan, concluded with a ceremonial lighting of lamps and incense sticks in front of portraits of Bharat Mata and Saraswati Mata at the zonal office, Rambaba Ashram. Ganesh Gagrai, the Zone Committee Chairman, officiated the concluding ceremony. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Ganesh Gagrai emphasized the significant role of women power, describing it as the most potent force in the world. He highlighted the pivotal role of initiatives aimed at educating and empowering mothers and sisters within communities, stressing that societal progress hinges upon the education and empowerment of women in villages. Participants were encouraged to implement the



knowledge and skills acquired during the ten-day training program effectively in their respective village schools. Additionally, they were urged to join in the celebration of Holi festivities alongside teachers, committee members, and fellow workers. The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished individuals, including Zonal Committee Treasurer Raghu Kalandi, Members Rahul Kalandi

and Guddu Pandit, Zonal Office Head Ramesh Karuva, Zonal Training Head Ravindra Mahato, Zonal Gram Swaraj Chief Kalicharan Mahato, Sancha Pramukh Chhunu Hembram, as well as Gaurango Singh, Lalbabu Laik, Bhavani Shankar Sahu, Rekha Mahato, Sumitra Hansda, Kiran Mahato, Sanch Vyas, Shilabali Murmu, and Naveen Acharya from the region. (w/nkm)

Demand for immediate repairs of roads to mitigate road accidents

Seraikela, March 27: Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, the former vice president of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, has penned a letter to the Deputy Commissioner cum Road Safety Committee Chairman, urging immediate repairs of roads to mitigate road accidents. In his correspondence, Chaudhary emphasized the pressing need to address the hazardous conditions prevailing on various roads. Specifically, he highlighted the existence of significant and perilous potholes near Birsia Chowk, attributing them to frequent accidents in the area. Moreover, Chaudhary pointed out numerous potholes along the road from Seraikela to Jamshedpur. He underscored that Chaibasa is part of the Jamshedpur toll road, where road maintenance responsibilities lie with the toll agency. However, Chaudhary lamented the alleged negligence displayed by the toll company in maintaining the roads and street lights, contributing to the heightened risk of accidents. Additionally, Chaudhary drew attention to the protracted state of disrepair of the Seraikela Rajnagar road, which has persisted for several years, leading to frequent accidents. In light of these concerns, he urged immediate action to repair the roads and ensure road safety. (w/nkm)

DEO emphasizes fair and transparent conduct of elections

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 27: District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner, Ravi Shankar Shukla, convened a crucial meeting via video conferencing with all Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and Sector Magistrates to discuss the meticulous planning and execution of the Lok Sabha General Elections-2024. During the meeting, detailed guidelines were provided to ensure the elections are conducted in a fair, transparent, and secure manner. The District

Election Officer underscored the importance of adhering to the directives issued by the Election Commission of India and emphasized the responsibility of Sector Magistrates in overseeing polling station arrangements. Sector Magistrates were tasked with conducting thorough inspections of polling stations in their respective areas to ensure necessary facilities are in place before polling day. Additionally, they were instructed to activate booth awareness groups to inform citizens about voting dates and polling station details. Efforts to raise awareness



among voters, particularly regarding postal voting for absentee voters, were emphasized. Sector Magistrates were urged to conduct awareness programs through booth awareness groups to encourage

maximum participation. Furthermore, preparations for traffic management at polling centers were discussed, with instructions to prepare route charts accordingly. Sector Magistrates were also directed to ensure proper marking of vulnerable booths and hamlets as per guidelines, informing the relevant officials for necessary preparations. In conclusion, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of Sector Magistrates' roles in the election process and urged them to discharge their responsibilities with honesty

and sensitivity. Mutual coordination among all stakeholders was highlighted as crucial for timely information exchange. The meeting saw the participation of Deputy Development Commissioner Prabhat Kumar Baratiar, Additional Municipal Commissioner Alok Dubey, DRDA Director, ITDA Director, senior officers from all departments, Electoral Registrar officers, Assistant Electoral Registrar officers, and other relevant officials, further emphasizing the collaborative effort towards successful elections in Seraikela. (w/nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mousumi Bhowmick** W/o **Arindam Bhowmick**, Resident of 71, A Road, Air Base Colony, Kadma, P.O. and P.S.- Kadma, Jamshedpur Dist.- East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831005, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-
1. That I am Indian Citizen by birth.
2. That before my marriage my name was "**Mousumi Day**".
3. That I am married with Mr. Arindam Bhowmick.
4. That my surname is changed after my marriage I am known as "**Mousumi Bhowmick**".
5. That "**Mousumi Bhowmick**" and "**Mousumi Day**" is one and the same person i.e. myself. That further I shall be known as "**Mousumi Bhowmick**".
That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts to be true and correct.
Kishore Kumar Agarwal
Notary Public, Jsr
Advocate

Cong accuses Yusuf Pathan of violating MCC by using Tendulkar's photo during campaign

Kolkata, March 27 (IANS) The Congress on Wednesday approached the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), accusing former India cricketer and Trinamool Congress candidate from Baharampur in Murshidabad district, Yusuf Pathan, of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by using Sachin Tendulkar's photo during campaign for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. In its letter to the state poll panel, the Congress accused Pathan of using photographs of India's World Cup triumph in 2011, including several images of Tendulkar. Pathan was a member of the triumphant India squad led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The Congress argued that India's victory in the 2011 ODI World Cup was a matter of pride for every Indian, and that sentiment should not be exploited by any party for political mileage ahead of the elections. In Baharampur, Pathan is pitted against state Congress President and five-time sitting MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and BJP nominee Nirmal Kumar Saha, a popular medical practitioner in the town.



LS polls: It is nation first versus family first : Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, March 27 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, said that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'nation first versus opposition's family first' in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. He emphasised the PM Modi administration's dedication to upholding the rule of law, prioritising national interests and adhering to zero tolerance policy for corruption, juxtaposing it with the dominance of the mafia and thriving corruption during opposition governments in the past. In his first public address following the announcement of the Lok Sabha election dates, the Chief Minister engaged with intellectuals, seeking support for BJP candidates, while also presenting a comprehensive overview of numerous development schemes of the Modi government. He contrasted the opposition parties' divisive politics based on appeasement, caste, and religion with Modi's inclusive governance, aimed at extending the benefits of welfare schemes to all, regardless of background, under the banner of "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas." The Chief Minister described Prime Minister Modi as a leader who embraces all 140 crore citizens as part of his extended family, urging everyone to envision a new India within the folds of



Modi's family. The Chief Minister remarked that while the b h a j a n 'HoliKheleRaghubira' is a familiar tune to many, it marked a historic occasion when, after 500 years, the revered Lord Ram witnessed the unique Holi celebrations from his abode in Ayodhya. Besides, Holi celebrations in Mathura-Vrindavan, Barsana, Gokul, Govardhan, Nandgaon, and Baldev have all grabbed headlines due to the presence of a large number of devotees, the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister emphasised the transformative changes

witnessed over the past decade, portraying a dynamic shift towards a new India, with fortified border security alongside significant infrastructural advancements under PM Modi's leadership. Developments span highways, railways, airports, medical colleges, universities, and various new institutions, while benefits of welfare schemes have reached the underprivileged without any discrimination. "Prior to 2014, schemes were often tailored based on considerations for caste and religion as part of vote bank politics. However, post-2014, adherence to the principle of "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas" ensures equal distribution of benefits among people without bias. Every stratum of society - be it the impoverished, entrepreneurs, women, youth, or farmers - reaps the rewards, receiving security subsidies universally," he said. The absence of a single riot in the last seven years of the government headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the guaranteed safety of women and traders and effective action against mafias and gangsters as well as significant transformation brought about in Uttar Pradesh's security landscape since 2017 are likely to play vital role in helping voters in making their choices during the LS elections in the state, he stated.

BJD releases first list of candidates for LS and Assembly seats

Bhubaneswar, March 27 (IANS) Ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced the first list of candidates for 72 Assembly and nine parliamentary constituencies in the state for the simultaneous elections scheduled from May 13. The party has fielded Pranab Prakash Das from Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency replacing Nalini Kanta Pradhan. The Sambalpur parliamentary constituency will witness an intense fight as the Bharatiya Janata Party has already announced the name of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for the seat. Similarly, veteran hockey player and former Indian hockey team captain DilipTirkey will contest the elections from Sundargarh Lok Sabha constituency against former Union minister and senior BJP leader JualOram. The BJD has fielded Anshuman Mohanty from Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituency replacing popular Odia cine star Anubhav Mohanty. Anshuman will face BJP's national vice-president and former MP Baijayant Panda in the elections. In a surprise move, the BJD



has announced Manmath Routray, son of veteran Congress leader Sura Routray, as candidate from high profile Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency. Mannath's name was announced just hours after he formally joined the party on Wednesday. He will contest against former bureaucrat and sitting MP Aparajita Sarangi. Meanwhile, Pradeep Kumar Majhi, who joined BJD after quitting Congress in 2021, has replaced Ramesh Chandra Majhi as the party's candidate for the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha constituency. Pradeep who contested on Congress ticket from the same

constituency in 2019 had lost to Ramesh Chandra. Similarly, BJD has replaced PramilaBisoyi with RanjitaSahoo for the AskaLokSabha constituency this time. The party has fielded SudamMarndi for MayurbhanjLokSabha seat, replacing DebashisMarndi. The BJD also announced the LambodarNial for KalahandiLokSabha constituency replacing PuspendraSinghdeo who had lost to Basanta Kumar Panda in 2019 general elections. The party on the other hand retained Kausalya Hikaka for Koraput parliamentary constituency who had lost to Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka of Congress in the 2019 elections. The party has also announced the list of candidates for 72 assembly constituencies for the upcoming elections. It had retained many previous candidates barring a few new faces. The party has fielded SujataSahu for Jajpur as PranabPrakash Das has been announced to contest from SambalpurLokSabha seat. Similarly, Kalikesh Singh Deo has replaced father Ananga Udaya Singh Deo from Bolangir Assembly seat this time.

'Elect Gadkari with record majority', Fadnavis urges voters

Nagpur, March 27 (IANS) The MahaYuti partners in Maharashtra -- BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, and factions of the Republican Party of India -- staged a show of strength on Wednesday as Union Minister and BJP nominee NitinGadkari filed his nomination from Nagpur. Leaders present at the rally unanimously urged the workers to work wholeheartedly to ensure Gadkari's victory by a record margin. Two-time sitting MP from Nagpur, Gadkari is up against Congress nominee VikasThakre this time. Chief Minister EknathShinde, Deputy CM DevendraFadnavis, and NCP Working President Praful Patel were present at the rally before Gadkari filed his nomination, among others. "Gadkari, who is the



commander-in-chief of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 resolution, should be elected with a record majority. The work done by the NarendraModi government in the last 10 years was a trailer... A lot more needs to be done to make the country strong and developed. "Under the leadership of

PM Modi, we want to create a poverty-free, unemployment-free, and egalitarian India in the next five years. The Prime Minister has resolved to make India a developed country by 2047. New milestones will be set up in the next five years, and therefore people should elect NarendraModi as the Prime Minister for the third

time," said Fadnavis. BJP nominee from Bhandara-Gondiya, Sunil Mendhe, also filed his nomination on Wednesday. Mendhe is pitted against Congress nominee PrashantPatole. The BJP, which has resolved to achieve 'Mission 45-plus' with its allies in Maharashtra, proposes to reach out to one crore voters by organising 21,000 NamoSamvads across the state. At the NamoSamvad events, the party plans to present a comparative picture of India before and after 2014, with a focus on the emergence of a New India under the Narendra Modi-led government. BJP General Secretary Vikrant Patil said that many important leaders at the national and regional levels will campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

Jamshedpur FC players celebrate Holi in style



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Jamshedpur FC players, embodying unity and camaraderie, celebrated Holi with vibrant hues. Indian and foreign players of the Men of Steel joyously adorned each other with colours, fostering bonds beyond borders. Amidst laughter and camaraderie, Head Coach Khalid Jamil joined in, adding to the festive spirit. This colourful celebration not only showcases the team's harmony but also highlights the essence of togetherness in embracing cultural festivities. Beyond the football field, Jamshedpur FC exemplifies the spirit of unity, echoing the sentiment that sport transcends boundaries, uniting individuals in shared moments of joy and celebration.

JFC Reserves secure draw in tough game against Mohan Bagan SG

Jamshedpur, March 27: In a thrilling encounter in the Reliance Foundation Development League Regional Qualifiers -2, Jamshedpur FC Reserves showcased resilience and determination as they battled Mohun Bagan SG to a hard-fought 1-1 draw. From the onset, both teams displayed attacking intent, eager to seize the early advantage. It was Jamshedpur FC Reserves who got the lead with Bivan Jyoti Laskar finding the back of the net in the 18th minute, setting the tone for a tense battle ahead. Despite relentless efforts from Mohun Bagan SG to restore parity, Jamshedpur FC Reserves steadfast defense held firm, ensuring they maintained their lead heading into halftime. The second half saw Mohun Bagan SG launch wave after wave of attacks in search of the elusive equalizer. However, Jamshedpur FC Reserve's defense remained resolute, frustrating their opponents' attempts to level the scoreline. In a dramatic climax to the match, MD FARDIN ALI MOLLA scored an equalizer in the 90+4th minute. This resulted in a draw between Jamshedpur FC Reserve & Mohun Bagan. With this hard-fought point in the bag, Jamshedpur FC Reserves now turn their attention to their upcoming fixture against East Bengal FC on 29th March.

IIM Jammu students throng Viksit Bharat Ambassador meet-up event, laud initiative

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The Viksit Bharat Ambassador meet-up program was held in IIM Jammu on Wednesday and it saw the gathering of many students of the institute, raring to show their support and solidarity for the Viskit Bharat 2047 mission. At the event, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Anurag Thakur spoke at length about landmark achievements of the past decade under the Modi government and also explained how the world was paying heed

to India's advances in various fields including the digital sphere. A lot of students of IIM Jammu students participated in the Viksit Bharat Ambassador meet-up program, that was organised in its campus on Wednesday. Rishik Kumar, a student of IIM Jammu hailed the initiative as a progressive and path-breaking step and said that this will spur youths to come forward and contribute positively to achieve the Viskit Bharat mission by 2047. Another student lauded the vision of

Prime Minister NarendraModi and said that this was a progressive and transformative step for making India a world leader by 2047. PranikaSrivastava said that she became aware of the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative and about the program from her friends. Heaping praise on the unique initiative, she said that this will lay the foundation for nation's all-round growth. PalakYadav, another girl student said that the Viksit Bharat program at IIM Jammu campus was a great opportunity for them to

join the campaign and also chip in with their endeavour towards realising the Viskit Bharat 2047 goal. Notably, the Viksit Bharat Ambassador (VBA) meet-ups and events are being organised across the country with an aim to encourage citizens to take responsibility for contributing to India's development. Through these events, the participants are encouraged to engage in constructive discussions, exchange ideas and also to explore practical solutions to nagging problems.

I&B Minister explains how Digital India is firming up nation's clout in world

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Anurag Thakur on Wednesday impressed upon the students of IIM Jammu about several landmark achievements in the past ten years of the Modi government and highlighted how an array of developmental schemes are setting the stage for realizing \$ 5 trillion economy goal. Anurag Thakur, addressing the Viksit Bharat Ambassador meet-up event in Jammu, enumerated the multiple benefits of Digital India initiative and how it was taking the nation to new heights. The I&B Minister informed that there are more than 1 lakh start-ups in country today and urged the students



to embrace technology, as this will speed up the next phase of growth and development. "We have opened up the space sector to FDI. Today, CEOs of many global firms are Indians. SundarPichai once told me that he doesn't have digital certificate unlike other Indians," he said while recalling

how Modi government pushed Digital India drive despite stiff resistance from the Opposition. The I&B Minister spoke about poor-centric government schemes and how they have brought transformational change in people's lives. "Government brought PMSV Anidhi Yojana for street vendors, under which they are financially equipped to start and rev up their businesses. Under PM VishwakarmaYojana, carpenters, barbers, masons and more are being extended Rs 3 lakh loan at very low interest rate. E-Shram cards are being extended to those employed in informal sectors, a field that employs more than 90 per cent of the country's workforce," Anurag Thakur pointed out.

Man in J&K's Pulwama booked for spreading rumours about militants



Srinagar, March 27 (IANS) A case has been filed against a man in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama for spreading rumours about militants on social media, police said on Wednesday. Police said Sameer Ahmad Paray of Kabikoot village had recently uploaded a post on his Facebook profile 'Babar Azam', which "depicts arms & ammunition claiming that a new person has joined militant ranks in Pulwama district". He has been found circulating incriminating content on social media, thereby disrupting public peace and tranquillity, a police official said, adding that case FIR no 23/2024 u/s 505(b)/IPC has been registered in police station Rajpora and investigation started. Police advised the general public to abstain from posting any false content on social media, warning of strict action against any person found involved in posting malicious content on the Internet.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches YSRCP's poll campaign

Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), March 27 (IANS) Sounding the poll bugle, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday embarked on 'MemantaSiddham' bus yatra from Idupulapaya in his home district Kadapa. After paying tributes to his late father, former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy at YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya and seeking the blessings of his mother Y. S. Vijayamma and leaders of various faiths,

the Chief Minister began the bus yatra. The bus carrying Jagan Mohan Reddy and other leaders of YSR Congress Party started from Idupulapaya in his home constituency, Yerraguntla, Proddatur and Potladurthi (J a m m a l a m d u g u constituency). Enroute hundreds of



people including women welcomed the Chief Minister. At a few places Jagan Mohan Reddy stood on top of the bus to greet

the people with folded hands. With the bus yatra, the YSR Congress chief launched the party's campaign for May 13

elections to state Assembly and Lok Sabha. Following the public meeting, the yatra will proceed to the night camp situated on the Allagadda bypass road of Nandyal district, passing through Sunnapurallapalli, Duvvur, Jillela, Nagalapadu, Bodhanam, Rampalle Cross, and Chagalamarri. Jagan Mohan Reddy's bus yatra will be covering Nandyal and Kurnool districts on Thursday. He will interact with people at Yerraguntla in Allagadda

on Thursday and address a public meeting at Nandyal on the same day. Simultaneous elections to the 175-member Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats are scheduled on May 13. In the 2019 elections, YSRCP bagged 151 Assembly and 22 Lok Sabha seats. The ruling party, which is going alone, has already announced its candidates. This time the party is locked in a direct fight with the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance.

ED raids AAP leader Singla's residence based on Kejriwal's information: Sources

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted raids at the residence of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Deepak Singla in the excise policy case, sources said. Sources said that the raids come after information was revealed during the grilling of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 in the case and subsequently remanded to ED custody until March 28 by a Delhi court.

Singla, a former AAP candidate, had contested elections from Delhi's Vishwas Nagar Assembly seat under the AAP banner. Apart from his political endeavours, Singla also holds key roles within the party hierarchy, serving as the AAP's in-charge for Goa and co-in-charge of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). As per ED, Kejriwal was involved in the conspiracy of formulation of the Excise Policy 2021-22 to favour certain persons and also involved in demanding kickbacks from liquor businessmen in exchange for favours granted in the said policy. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had said that approximately Rs 45 crore from criminal activities were utilised in the electoral campaign of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for Goa. On March 23, the ED conducted similar raids at the home of AAP MLA Gulab Singh Yadav from Matiala in the national capital.

J&K: Man booked for giving fake information about contraband substances

Srinagar, March 27 (IANS) J&K Police booked a man on Wednesday for giving fake information about contraband substances to implicate people. "Reliable information was received by police station Karnah in Kupwara district that one person identified as Azam Shah of Pingla Haridal village is using urea fertiliser and white cosmetic powder etc to make artificial brown sugar-like substance," police said. Thereafter, the said person is giving wrong information to security agencies in order to falsely implicate innocent persons, police said. "FIR No. 14/2024 US 420 IPC has been registered in Police station Karnah and an investigation taken up. During the search of his premises, incriminating material including urea fertiliser, starch powder, white cosmetic powder and cell phone of the said accused has been seized for expert analysis," police said.

Punjab estimated to produce 161.30 lakh metric tons wheat

Chandigarh, March 27 (IANS) With wheat sown in 35.07 lakh hectares, Punjab Chief Secretary Anurag Verma on Wednesday took stock of procurement arrangements of the foodgrain commencing from April 1. The state is estimated to produce 161.30 lakh metric tons of wheat. The cash credit limit to the extent of Rs 30,776 crore is needed, out of which Rs 27,077.91 crore has been received for April. The balance amount for May will be received soon.

The Punjab Mandi Board has announced 1,908 regular purchase centres which will be allotted soon to the various agencies as per the advice of procurement agencies. The Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure the farmers face no hassles, apart from robust mechanisms for procurement in the mandis. There must be prompt payment to the farmers in a hassle-free manner, said Verma.

2016 Narada sting case: CBI summons Mathew Samuel to Kolkata

Kolkata, March 27 (IANS) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday issued a notice to Mathew Samuel, the man behind the 2016 Narada sting operation, asking him to be present at its office here next month. The CBI sleuths issued the notice under Section 160 of the Code for Criminal Procedure (CrPC). In the notice sent by CBI's deputy Superintendent Risinamol K.C., Samuel has been asked to be present at the agency's Nizam Palace office by 11 a.m. on April 4. The CBI has become active again in the case in which several top leaders of Trinamool Congress and one police officer were seen accepting cash. The agency had summoned Samuel for interrogation to Kolkata in September last year. However, at that point of time Samuel had set three conditions for joining the probe in Kolkata. The first condition was that his up and down flight travel costs will have to be reimbursed by the central agency. The second condition was that the central agency will also have to arrange and bear the cost of his stay in Kolkata during the period. The final condition was that accommodation in Kolkata should be near the CBI office in Kolkata.

Rameshwaram cafe blast: NIA searches 10 locations in TN

Chennai, March 27 (IANS) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) were carrying out raids in ten locations in Tamil Nadu, including the state capital in connection with the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case. The searches were taking place in six locations in Chennai and four in southern Tamil Nadu. The NIA has identified the main accused in the blast, a native of Shimoga in Karnataka, said sources. There were intelligence inputs from the central agencies about the main accused having stayed in multiple locations in Tamil Nadu along with his aide. Both the accused were involved in an explosion in 2020 in Karnataka and are in the wanted list of NIA. The premier investigation agency has announced rewards for those who give any tips on the whereabouts of the duo.

Fire breaks out in AC coach of Mumbai-bound Holi special train in Bihar's Bhojpur

Patna, March 27 (IANS) Fire broke out in an AC coach of a Mumbai-bound Holi special train (Number 01410) in Bihar's Bhojpur district on Wednesday. The incident occurred at around 12.15 a.m. at the Karisath railway station. The official said the train departed from Danapur railway station at 11.15 p.m. on Tuesday and reached Arrah Junction at 12.05 a.m. When the train reached Karisath railway station, which is just 8 km from Arrah, fire broke out in an M-9 AC coach. An official said that there were no passengers in the affected coach. This triggered panic among the passengers of other coaches. As the speed of the train was slow, fire did not spread to other coaches. Passengers of other coaches jumped out from the train in panic.

PM Modi, CMs of 5 BJP-ruled states among party's 40 star campaigners for MP

Bhopal, March 27 (IANS) The BJP has released the list of 40 star campaigners for Madhya Pradesh in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief J.P. Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Smriti Irani, Chief Ministers Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh) and Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) are among the star campaigners for the party. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, state BJP president V.D. Sharma, state in-charges Mahendra Singh and Satish Upadhyay have also been named as party's star campaigners.

US-India aviation partnership is about ensuring a free, open Indo-Pacific: US envoy

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) US Ambassador Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday that the US-India aviation partnership is about creating jobs and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific as he met Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and had a 'fruitful discussion' with him.

Minister Scindia and Ambassador Garcetti discussed the seventh US-India Aviation Summit, scheduled to be held in Washington, from June 24-26 this year.

"Had a fruitful discussion with Union Minister for Civil Aviation @JM_Scindia regarding the upcoming US-India Aviation Summit in Washington. The #USIndia aviation partnership isn't just about flights; it's about creating jobs and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific," Ambassador



Garcetti said in a post on X on Wednesday.

After the meeting, which was held on Tuesday, Scindia said that he had a "productive discussion" with the envoy on a "variety of Indo-US matters, including areas of collaboration in the aviation and steel sectors".

The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is holding this Summit under the US-India

Aviation Cooperation Program, a public-private partnership comprising American aviation firms active in India's aviation market.

The upcoming event will foster dialogue between Indian civil aviation authorities and industry and their US counterparts in both public and private sectors.

It will also serve as a showcase for advanced US

technology, equipment, services, and best practices tailored to meet India's expansion requirements, the USTDA said.

In March 2023, India announced plans to invest \$12 billion over two years to construct new airports and update existing ones as part of an effort to improve regional connectivity.

"In the last 10 years, India's civil aviation industry has experienced expansive growth, bolstered by the integration of low-cost carriers into the nation's airline fleet, the construction of new airports, and the focus on increasing regional connectivity among the Indian states," the USTDA added.

From January-October 2023, the Indian market witnessed nearly 1.3 billion passengers, an increase of 24 per cent over the same period in 2022.

Kejriwal's orders: Delhi BJP delegation files complaint with Police Commissioner, seeks probe

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) A delegation from the Delhi BJP approached Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora on Wednesday, urging for a thorough investigation into the letters allegedly dispatched by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his time under ED's custody.



"Shortwhile back along with advocates & party leaders filed a Police Complaint with @CPDelhi Shri Sanjay Arora regarding Letters coming allegedly from custody by CM @ArvindKejriwal ! Virendra Sachdeva, Delhi BJP President said in a tweet.

While talking to reporters after meeting CP, Sachdeva emphasised the necessity to determine the genuineness of these missives and said to scrutinise the involvement of Kejriwal's ministers, Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, who claim to have received them.

"We demand a comprehensive probe to ascertain whether these 'letters' are indeed authentic and the roles of the mentioned ministers," Sachdeva asserted.

He further alleged, "There exists a proper procedure for such correspondences. As per my knowledge, these letters appear to be fake."

After his arrest, CM Kejriwal first issued an order to Water Minister Atishi from the custody of the ED on Sunday, another directive was issued on Tuesday to the Health Department on the smooth functioning of the AAP's flagship Mohalla Clinics.

India highlights need for data integrity at UN meet on climate change

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Data integrity is essential for a fair audit assessment of any national climate action plan, an absence of which may result in biases in climate data and misguided policy decisions, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, said at a panel discussion at the UN headquarters in New York.

The two-day event on ClimateScanner Global Call: Engaging Supreme Audit Institutions in Assessing National Climate Action, Accounts - Brazil (TCU) on March 25 and 26, according to a statement issued by the CAG's office on Wednesday.

The ClimateScanner is an initiative led by the Supreme Audit Institution



of Brazil to develop a comprehensive audit tool for assessing government efforts in alleviating climate change issues.

Murmu said that the Supreme Audit Institutions face several obstacles while assessing national climate action, including data gaps, incomplete records and a limited number of climate stations.

The lack of standardised methodologies and reporting frameworks and different countries deploying different approaches to measure emissions make the task of comparing and aggregating data globally challenging.

This requires sustained efforts at capacity building and hand-holding amongst SAI members, he added.

ED registers case against IT firm of CM Vijayan's daughter



the FIR lodged by the police for cognizable offences.

This issue was first raised last year by Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalsadan on the basis of a media report, which quoted an Income Tax Department officer as saying that "CM Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan's IT firm Exalogic had received Rs 1.72 crore from the mining company CMRL, in which the KSIDC has around 13 per cent stake".

Initially, CM Vijayan and the CPI(M) defended the case both inside and outside the Assembly. They said that this was nothing but a political witch hunt. But the defence fell apart when the SFIO took up the probe last month.

The SFIO has completed one round of probe by visiting the offices of CMRL and KSIDC and has taken statements from officials of both these firms.

When the SFIO began its probe, the KSIDC approached the Kerala High Court seeking a stay, which was disallowed. Veena, whose IT firm was based in Bengaluru and now not in operation, approached the Karnataka High Court seeking a stay, but was also disallowed.

ED searches in Punjab in guava orchards compensation scam case

Chandigarh, March 27 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in at least Punjab's eight districts in connection with a money-laundering case linked to an alleged guava orchards compensation scam of Rs 137 crore, officials said.



Taking cognisance of a Punjab Vigilance Bureau case pertaining to alleged embezzlement of nearly Rs 137 crore released as compensation for guava orchards on land acquired by the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA), the ED had registered the case.

Search operations were conducted in the residence of state's Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Varun Roojam, in Chandigarh, besides the residence of Ferozepur Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dhiman and his chartered accountant Anil Arora in Patiala.

Raid was also carried out at the residence of Bhupinder Singh, the main accused in the scam, in Mohali district.

The Vigilance Bureau had arrested a number of people, including horticulture department officials, in this case.

The vigilance had registered an FIR in the case on May 3 last year. A total of nearly 30 people have been arrested.

The ED has sought records of compensation and the details of bank accounts of farmers related to the illegal compensation scam involving planting of guava trees in Mohali district, the epicenter of the scam.

BJP issues show-cause notice to Dilip Ghosh over comment on CM Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, March 27 (IANS) The BJP, on Wednesday, issued a show-cause notice to the party candidate from Bardhaman -Durgapur constituency in West Bengal, Dilip Ghosh, for his derogatory comments about Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The notice comes a day after Trinamool Congress filed a complaint against Ghosh, also the party's former state president and ex-national vice president, on this count to the Election Commission (ECI) through the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal.

Insiders from the state unit of BJP have asked Ghosh to tender an apology besides explaining what prompted him to make such a derogatory comment against the Chief Minister.

Admitting the receipt of the notice, Ghosh said that he does not have any personal enmity with the Chief Minister. "I have just protested against her political comments through which she had been trying to mislead people," Ghosh said.

At the same time, he raised questions of a section of Trinamool Congress leadership using more derogatory language against the father of one of the leading BJP legislators in West Bengal.

Notorious Bihar gangster captured in Delhi after encounter

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) After a brief exchange

of fire, the Delhi Police's Special Cell has nabbed a Bihar-based gangster wanted in several cases of murder, and attempt to murder, and under the Arms Act, an official said on Wednesday.



Police said that Abhishek Kumar a.k.a Rahul Singh alias Mukhiya, who hails from Bihar's Champaran, was also in contact with some local criminals in Delhi and frequently visited the city to procure arms and ammunition.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, Pratiksha Godara said that on March 24, information was received that Mukhiya would come to receive arms and ammunition from his contact in the Akshardham Flyover-Noida link road area.

"Accordingly, a police team was deployed at the Noida Link Road-Akshardham Flyover. At about 9:15 pm, a person was seen arriving on a motorcycle. After being identified by an informant, he was asked to surrender," she said.

However, the accused attempted to escape and fired upon the police team.

"In self-defence, the police also fired, resulting in the accused being injured in his right leg. He was then taken to the hospital for treatment," said the DCP.

EAM Jaishankar lauds Malaysian PM's 'vision' for stronger bilateral ties

Kuala Lumpur, March 27 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Wednesday met Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and said that his vision would help craft a "more ambitious agenda" for the India-Malaysia relationship.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Malaysia after concluding his Singapore and the Philippines visit, also conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Malaysian leader.

"Honour to call on Prime Minister @anwaribrahim of Malaysia. Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi," the Jaishankar said in a post on X. "His vision for stronger India-Malaysia ties, both in traditional and new-age areas, will help us craft a more ambitious agenda for the relationship," the EAM said, adding that he "benefitted" from PM Ibrahim's "guidance and insights



on regional developments".

Earlier on Wednesday, EAM Jaishankar held a 'productive and frank discussion'

with his Malaysian counterpart, Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, and the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral ties as well as

regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two Ministers exchanged views on enhancing collaboration in political, economic, defence, digital, startups, consular and people-to-people linkages.

In addition, they shared perspectives on the region, Indo-Pacific, West Asia, and Ukraine.

"As we near completion of a decade of our Enhanced Strategic Partnership, look forward to further strengthening our engagements," Jaishankar wrote on X after meeting Haji Hasan.

Bound by robust economic partnerships and close people-to-people ties, the two nations share a long-standing and substantive relationship.

In 2023, India was Malaysia's 12th largest global trading partner with total trade amounting to RM 77.76 billion (\$16.53 billion).

Dishom Baha Mahotsav celebrated with cultural splendor

Mail News Service

Jaduguda, March 27: The vibrant spirit of Jharkhandi culture illuminated the atmosphere as Dishom Baha Mahotsav unfolded today at UCIL Narvapahar Residential Colony. The event showcased a captivating glimpse of local traditions and customs, bringing together the community in joyous celebration. The festivities commenced with the ceremonial arrival of Nayake Baba from Jahergarh, accompanied by men and women dancing to the rhythms of traditional musical instruments.



Following the tribal Santhali tradition, Nayake Baba Shri Salkhu Murmu reverently offered natural Sakhua flowers to the presiding deities of Jahergarh. Prayers were fervently offered for the

well-being, prosperity, and harmony of all living beings worldwide. Post the auspicious puja, Sakhua flowers were distributed amongst the attendees, symbolizing a connection to nature and fostering a

sense of unity. The celebration continued with lively dances and melodious songs dedicated to appeasing the Gods and Goddesses. Addressing the gathering, the chief guest of the event, UCIL DGM

Manoranjan Mahali, emphasized the significance of Baha Bonga as a sacred ritual within tribal society.

Accepting the Sakhua flower signifies reverence for nature and underscores the importance of preserving cultural heritage amidst the demands of modernity. Mahali urged individuals to embrace their traditions while progressing in personal lives, fostering a harmonious balance between tradition and modernity.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests including Haripado Murmu, Chief Sukurmuni

Tudu, Chief Aaladi Hansda, Majhi Baba Dasmal Murmu, Majhi Baba Jairam Murmu, Majhi Baba Durga Charan Murmu, along with Majhi Baba Viren Tudu, Muchiram Soren, Dinesh Tudu, Fudan Mardi, Mansingh, and numerous others from the community.

Dishom Baha Mahotsav served as a vibrant testament to the rich cultural heritage and communal harmony prevalent in UCIL Narvapahar Residential Colony, reaffirming the bonds of tradition and fellowship amongst its residents. (w/nkm)

Deen Bandhu Trust celebrates Holi in Chhayanagar slum colony



Jamshedpur, March 27: Deen Bandhu Trust brought smiles to the faces of children in Chhayanagar slum colony by celebrating Holi with fervor and generosity. The organization distributed gifts including spray guns, colors, gulas, caps, and balloons, delighting the children. President Uttam Chakraborty expressed immense happiness in celebrating Holi with the children, emphasizing their importance akin to deities. Residents of the colony also partook in the festivities, applying gulas and exchanging blessings. Alongside the celebration, the importance of abstaining from intoxicants and exercising voting rights responsibly were emphasized. President Uttam Chakraborty, along with Nagendra Kumar, Shibu Namta, Sunita Poyra, Kanchan Yadav, Pinky Devi, Yashoda Devi, Anjan Poyra, Lakshmi De, Indu Satta, Nikki Patro, Umesh Sao, and other residents, participated in the Holi celebrations in the Chhayanagar slum area. (w/gsd)

Mani Sarhul festival celebrated with gaiety



Mail News Service

Jaduguda, March 27: The Mani Sarhul festival, also known as Baha Bonga, was celebrated with fervor and enthusiasm in Raj Doha village under the Domjudi Panchayat of Jaduguda police station area. Organized under the patronage of Majhi Baba Yuvraj Tudu, the Sarhul puja was conducted with traditional tribal customs, invoking blessings for happiness and prosperity in the region. The ceremonial puja took place at the Jaher police station, where prayers were offered to Marang Buru - Jaher Ayo, seeking blessings for the well-being of the community. Notable personalities including Potka MLA Sanjeev Sardar graced the occasion, joining the villagers in the festivities. The culmination of the program featured a captivating display of Jharkhandi cultural dance Sarhul, which garnered admiration and applause from all present. The vibrant performances served as a fitting tribute to the rich cultural heritage of the region. (w/nkm)

'Ajab Madari GhazabTamasha'enthralls audience on World Theater Day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Jamshedpur witnessed a vibrant celebration of World Theater Day, organized by SPARK (Society for Promotion of Art and Culture), the literary and cultural organization of Karim City College. The highlight of the event was the performance of the renowned play 'AjabMadaariGhazabTama sha,' penned by acclaimed playwright Akhtar Ali and directed by Shivalal Sagar. Dr. Mohammad Reyaz, the Principal of the college, emphasized the significance of theater in



reflecting life's nuances and its importance as a literary form.

The play, staged successfully at the college's central stage, showcased Aniket Karna and Aniket Jaiswal in leading roles, alongside talented student

artists including Akash Das, Priya Kumari, Akash Kumar Singh, Ayush Banerjee, Ayush Mitra, and Rishabh Raj. Director Shivalal Sagar highlighted theater's potential to steer society in the right direction and provoke

societal awakening.

The event was graced by esteemed faculty members including Dr. BN Tripathi, Dr. AfsarKazmi, Dr. Yahiya Ibrahim, Dr. Tanveer Jamal Kazmi, and Dr. Firoz Ibrahim, along withstudents. (w/gsd)

TWU Committee Meeting on March 29

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: The Tata Workers Union (TWU) has scheduled a committee meeting for Friday, March 29 at 9:30 am. This meeting will mark the first gathering post-elections, a departure from the usual protocol due to internal conflicts delaying previous meetings. A circular issued on Monday, signed by General Secretary Satish Singh, outlined three main agendas including paying tribute and passing accounts from September 2023 to February 2024, as well as welcoming and introducing new committee members. Notably, any additional matters have been excluded from the agenda. Former Deputy President Arvind Pandey has expressed dissent, submitting a letter to the President and General



Secretary. Pandey argued that the absence of other issues on the agenda was a matter of concern, given the prolonged gap since the last meeting and the importance of addressing pressing issues facing members. He highlighted concerns over reduced committee membership and challenges regarding employee promotions and issues related to the CBSE. Pandey requested an opportunity to voice his concerns and emphasized the need for adherence to procedural norms, including the timely provision of departmental information. (w/gsd)

Holi Milan unites journalists at Seraikela-Kharsawan Press Club



Seraikela, March 27: The Press Club of Seraikela-Kharsawan came together for its annual Holi Milan at the tranquil setting of the forest rest house in Kandara. Over 50 journalists, both seasoned members and newcomers, gathered for the occasion, marking a celebration of camaraderie and professional solidarity. The event commenced with the induction of new members into the club, warmly welcomed by President Manmohan Singh with bouquets. Despite the constraints imposed by the Model Code of Conduct this year, the spirit of Holi Milan was upheld with simplicity and fervor. Addressing the assembly, President Manmohan Singh emphasized the pivotal role of the press club in uniting journalists through shared experiences of joy and adversity.

Amidst the fast-paced world of news reporting, such gatherings serve as a mental rejuvenation, fostering renewed inspiration and camaraderie among colleagues. Singh urged journalists to harness their collective strength and strive for excellence in their daily endeavors, ensuring that their pens advocate for truth, justice, and integrity while avoiding sentiments. (w/nkm)

Kale campaigns for Bansuri Swaraj in New Delhi



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Amarpreet Singh Kale, former Jharkhand state spokesperson of the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took to the streets of New Delhi to campaign for BJP candidate BansuriSwaraj for the New Delhi Lok Sabha seat. On

Wednesday, Kale rallied support for Swaraj, urging citizens to bolster Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The gathering, attended by a significant number of intellectuals, echoed the resolve to surpass the 400-seat mark in the upcoming LS elections while expressing unwavering confidence in Modi's leadership. Kale emphasized the realization of India's envisioned rise to greatness, attributing it to Modi's endeavors. (w/gsd)

Sakchi Marwari Sammelan celebrates Holi

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: The Marwari Sammelan Sakchi branch concluded its Holi meet-cum-cultural program with great enthusiasm at Dhalbhum Club Sakchi on Monday evening. Led by Marwari Sammelan President Suresh Kauntia, the event witnessed the presence of Health Minister Banna Gupta and his wife Sudha Gupta as chief guests. Over two thousand community



members enjoyed the banquet and participated in festivities, with women

playing a colorful Holi of flowers with Radha-Krishna. (w/gsd)

Tata Steel's deal with Tata Power recognised among 'Top Deals of 2023'

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Tata Steel, a leading global steel player, is proud to announce the recognition of its 966 MW Round-the-clock (RTC) Group Captive deal with Tata Power in the list of 'Top Deals of 2023' by the India Business Law Journal. Under the Group Captive scheme, this is one of India's biggest industrial round-the-clock Hybrid Renewable Power projects and will be executed by TP Vardhaman Surya, a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL). The mega deal, acknowledged as one of the 50 standout deals of 2023, underscores Tata Steel's commitment to adopting green energy solutions and enabling a better tomorrow. India Business Law Journal is one of India's reputed journals which legal professionals refer to navigate legal and regulatory matters, analyse key business deals, gain information on legal and regulatory changes.

Marwari community celebrates Holi at Lakshmi Narayan Temple

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: The Marwari community celebrated Holi at the Lakshmi Narayan Marwari Temple Dhamshala in Kadma. The colorful event, held on Monday evening, saw enthusiastic participation as community members exchanged warm wishes and applied Abeer andGulas, engaging in the traditional festivities with great fervor. Health Minister Banna Gupta, accompanied by his wife Sudha Gupta, graced the occasion as the chief guest and inaugurated the festivities by lighting the lamp. The event, conducted by Temple Committee's



General Secretary Ashok Modi, witnessed congratulatory speeches and warm greetings extended to all present. The program, organized by the Shri-Shri Lakshmi Narayan Marwari Mandir Committee, showcased a

delightful presentation of Rajasthani dances by children and women adorned in various fancy dresses. Local artiste Mahavir Agarwal and his team captivated the audience with a song and dance performance. The Phag songs started with Ganesh Vandana. On this occasion, various songs depicting the mood and tempo of Holi festivities were rendered. The organizing team for the Holi festivities at the temple comprised Chairman Santosh Agarwal, Murari Lal Agarwal, Nirmal Mittal, Naresh Modi, Sanwarmal Sharma, Mahavir Gupta, along with Chhaya Gupta and Rekha Mittal. (w/gsd)

Kolhan University's sixth convocation ceremony rescheduled for July

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: The eagerly anticipated sixth convocation ceremony of Kolhan University is now slated to take place in the month of July. With preparations already underway, the university is gearing up for the grand event. It's worth noting that the sixth convocation ceremony had faced two postponements previously. Initially scheduled for last year, the first proposed date for the convocation was in March. Plans were in motion to invite President Draupadi Murmu as the chief guest. However, due to uncertainties surrounding the President's schedule, the ceremony had to be deferred. Subsequently, the then in-charge Vice Chancellor cum Commissioner of Kolhan, Manoj Kumar, had rescheduled the convocation for July 18, 2023. Unfortunately, this date also had to be postponed for reasons undisclosed. Undeterred by the setbacks, preparations are now in full swing for the third attempt at organizing the convocation ceremony. University authorities are leaving no stone unturned to ensure a successful and memorable event for all participants. (w/nkm)

First merit list for CM Schools of Excellence on March 30

Jamshedpur, March 27: The eagerly awaited first merit list for admission to the three CM Schools of Excellence in the district is set to be released on March 30. This year, a total of 447 seats are up for grabs across these prestigious institutions. Based on the entrance examinations conducted for admission, the school-wise merit list will be published on March 30, marking the beginning of the admission process. Nominations for available seats will be accepted from April 1 to 7, with the new academic session scheduled to commence from April 8. Each school has allocated seats across different classes. In CM School of Excellence for Girls in Sakchi, Jamshedpur, 80 seats are reserved for class 6, along with 15 seats for class 7, 12 seats for class 8, and 10 seats for class 9. Similarly, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya CM School of Excellence in Jamshedpur will offer 25 seats for class 6 and 5 seats for class 7. Furthermore, District CM School of Excellence in BPM Burmamines, Jamshedpur, will admit 120 students for class 9. Additionally, nominations will be accepted for 60 seats each in class 11th for Science, Arts, and Commerce streams. (w/nkm)

Jewelry and cash worth lakhs stolen while family slept

Jamshedpur, March 27: In a distressing incident, burglars broke into a residence located in Deepu Tola of Kitadih Gadi Ban Patti under the jurisdiction of the Parsudih police station in Jamshedpur. The theft occurred while the occupants of the house were fast asleep during the night. The perpetrators managed to abscond with jewelry valued at lakhs of rupees along with a sum of Rs 14,800 in cash. The targeted house belonged to Chandu Mahli, who recounted that the incident unfolded late Tuesday night around 10 pm, shortly after the family had concluded their dinner and retired to sleep in a separate room. Upon waking up the next morning, they discovered the distressing aftermath—evidenced by a broken lock on the adjacent room's door, scattered belongings, and the conspicuous absence of their precious jewelry from the cupboard, alongside the missing cash summing up to Rs 14,800.

Promptly, BJP leader Vimal Baitha was informed of the unfortunate incident, following which a formal complaint was lodged at the police station under Baitha's guidance, initiating an investigation into the matter. (w/nkm)

Pickup van collides with parked truck, traffic disrupted



Gamharia, March 27: An early morning collision between a pickup van and a parked truck near Sheyn International School under Kandara police station area disrupted traffic flow. The pickup van, en route from Govindpur in Kharsawan to Jamshedpur via Kandara, lost control and collided with a stationary 407 truckthat had broken down the previous night. The impact of the collision resulted in significant damage to the front portion of the pickup van, causing debris, including a DJ, box, and generator, to scatter across the road, halting traffic. Eyewitnesses reported that the pickup van, bearing was traveling at high speed at the time of the incident. Upon receiving reports, Kandara police station in-charge Vinod Kumar Murmu and his team arrived at the scene to manage traffic congestion. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Ajit Sen also provided assistance at the site. (w/gsd)

Senior citizens play Tilak Holi to promote water conservation



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Senior citizens in Jamshedpur set an example by celebrating Holi in a unique manner, opting for Tilak Holi instead of traditional color splashing, as a gesture to promote water conservation. Morning walkers gathered on Kadma Sonari Link Road to convey a crucial message amid concerns over water wastage in the city, particularly during summer months. Shrikant Dev, among others, emphasized the importance of curbing water wastage to ensure uninterrupted water supply in future. The event concluded with warm greetings exchanged among participants, including Sudhakar Lal Das, Ganesh Chaudhary, Dhiren Gorai, AS Rai, SN Mitra, BK Sharma, Ramdev, Lakhi Mahato, DR Thakur, Bharat Bhubji, Shrikant Dev, Shambhu Sardar, Rao Babu, and Sushil Mandal, who participated in the initiative. (w/gsd)

Moscow terrorist attack

The recent terrorist attack in Moscow, amidst Russia's ongoing conflict with Ukraine, serves as a stark reminder of the pervasive threat of terrorism that knows no boundaries. The tragic shooting at Moscow's Crocus City concert hall, resulting in over 150 deaths and numerous injuries, underscores the urgent need for international solidarity in combating terrorism. The assailants, armed with automatic weapons and explosives, unleashed chaos and devastation upon innocent concert-goers, indiscriminately targeting anyone in their path. The calculated nature of the attack, coupled with the use of military uniforms and coordinated tactics, points towards a meticulously planned act of terror.

While the immediate focus lies on apprehending the perpetrators and ensuring justice for the victims, speculation abounds regarding the motives behind the attack. Despite assertions from both the Russian and American governments ruling out Ukrainian involvement, questions linger, highlighting the complex geopolitical dynamics at play. As investigations unfold and the captured attacker undergoes interrogation, it is imperative for the global community to unite against terrorism unequivocally. This barbaric assault in Moscow serves as a somber reminder of the indiscriminate nature of terrorism, which respects no borders or ideologies.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, heightened security measures have been implemented at Moscow airport, reflecting the gravity of the situation. The Russian government's vow to mete out strict punishment to the culprits is a step in the right direction, reaffirming its commitment to combating terrorism.

Amidst the ongoing turmoil faced by Russia on multiple fronts, including the war with Ukraine, this terrorist attack poses a significant challenge. It underscores the need for enhanced vigilance and cooperation among nations to thwart the scourge of terrorism. In light of these developments, it is incumbent upon all countries to stand in solidarity against terrorism, condemning such heinous acts unequivocally. Failure to address the root causes of terrorism and adopt a unified approach risks perpetuating future atrocities, with potentially catastrophic consequences. As the world grapples with the aftermath of the Moscow terrorist attack, the imperative for global anti-terrorism cooperation has never been more pressing. Only through collective action and unwavering resolve can we hope to confront and ultimately defeat this menace, safeguarding the lives and liberties of people worldwide.

From the Editorial Desk

Will BJP's star power work in Punjab's border seat again?



By Vishal Gulati

Will BJP's star power in Punjab Lok Sabha elections on June 1 work again from this seat bordering Pakistan that is dominated by the Jat Sikhs? The BJP in 2019 fielded Bollywood actor Sunny Deol, who owes his roots to Punjab, from Gurdaspur, the seat represented four times by yesteryear actor VinodKhanna, who died in April 2017 due to cancer.

Deol won his electoral debut by defeating Congress heavyweight and sitting MP Sunil Jakhar from the Gurdaspur constituency with a margin of over 80,000 votes in 2019.

Jakhar, currently the state BJP unit chief, had won the



LokSabhabypoll by 193,219 votes in October 2017. The bypoll was necessitated by the demise of BJP sitting MP VinodKhanna. Deol's iconic "tareekhpetaareekh" may have captivated cinegoers but he did not address the House once during the five year term, as per reports.

Last month, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann took a jibe at Deol, saying "politics means serving and being available to people round the clock".

Son of veteran actor Dharmendra, Deol, does not have any direct connection with Gurdaspur city though his father hails

from Sahnewal town near Punjab's industrial town Ludhiana. He is a Jat Sikh.

His father Dharmendra was elected from Bikaner as an MP in 2004, while his step mother HemaMalini is seeking third term from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh as a BJP candidate.

Deol entered the Hindi film industry with 'Betaab' in 1983 and his best hits include 'Border', 'Damini' and 'Gadar'. Deol's unforgettable dialogue from 1990's Hindi film 'Ghayal', 'Jab yehdhai kilo kahaathkisipe padtahaina, tohaadmiuth tanahi... utthjatahai' (When this hand weighing 2.5 kg is kept on

some person, they don't get up, they go up (they will die) was quite hit during his campaigning in the 2019 polls. Gurdaspur lies in the north of Punjab, sharing an international border with Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir. The area is not as developed as other areas in Punjab. The Gurdaspur constituency, which has 15,95,284 voters, including 7,45,479 women, has nine assembly constituencies. It has a high number of serving and retired defence personnel.

BJP's VinodKhanna represented the Gurdaspur constituency four times -- 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2014, while Congress candidate SukhbunsKaur Binder five times in a row -- 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991 and 1996.

Congress' Pratap Singh Bajwa was MP from Gurdaspur from 2009 to 2014. He is now sitting legislator and the Leader of Opposition. The Gurdaspur constituency has seen two major militant attacks by Pakistan-backed militant outfits in the recent past.

In 2019, the BJP had an

alliance with the ShiromaniAkali Dal in Punjab. It contested three LokSabha seats (Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur), while the Akali Dal contested the remaining 10 seats. At that time, Congress had won eight seats -- Amritsar, Faridkot, Anandpur Sahib, Jalandhar, Khadoor Sahib, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib and Patiala seats -- while the Akali Dal won Bathinda and Ferozepur and the BJP Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur seats. The AamAadmi Party won from Sangrur.

This time, there seems to be a four-cornered contest on this seat as AAP is contesting the elections alone in Punjab without an alliance with the opposition's INDIA bloc.

All four major parties are yet to declare their candidates. The BJP is mulling to field either KavitaKhanna, wife of four-time ex-MP VinodKhanna, or two-time Pathankot legislator Ashwani Sharma, or ex-MLA Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa.

NanivsChinni: Vijayawada to witness battle between brothers

By Mohammed Shafeeq

Two brothers are pitted against each other in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency for the May 13 elections.

KesineniSivanath is contesting on the ticket of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) while his elder brother KesineniSrinivas, who was till recently with TDP, is the candidate of ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

The fight between two businessmen brothers has generated political heat in Vijayawada, known as the political capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Popularly known as Nani, Srinivas was elected twice to Lok Sabha from Vijayawada on TDP ticket.

He was keen to score a hat-trick but TDP President and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu decided to field Sivanath, who is popular as Chinni.

It was in early this year that Nani himself revealed that Naidu had decided not to give ticket to him this time. He assured that he will abide by the leader's directions.

However, supporters of the two brothers clashed when Naidu appointed Chinni as constituency in-charge in place of Nani.

A few days later Nani quit the TDP and after a meeting with Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy joined YSRCP. The ruling party lapped up the opportunity to cash in on the chinks in Kesineni family and also TDP to declare Nani as its candidate.

Chinni, who worked in TDP under the shadow of his elder brother for long, opened up and started targeting him after the latter made serious allegations



against Chandrababu Naidu.

Chinni said he never had any aspirations to compete with his brother. "He had distanced himself from the party and cadres. He never bothered to participate in party programmes including Mahanadu," said Chinni explaining the reasons that led to Nani being denied re-nomination.

Chinni claimed that despite several complaints, Chandrababu Naidu gave Nani the opportunity for two terms. Nani should have been grateful to the TDP chief but he resorted to mudslinging against Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh, said the younger brother.

While Nani slammed Chandrababu Naidu for creating rift in the Kesineni family, Chinni claimed that there have been disputes in the family since 1999.

Chinni said he never spoke about what happened within the family but he was forced to speak out due to the allegations made

by his brother. Chinni revealed that he left the family's travel business to Nani by taking a very meagre share.

Nani entered politics by joining PrajaRajyam Party (PRP) floated by popular actor Chiranjeevi in 2008.

"Despite differences, I supported him when he joined PRP and abruptly left it by making serious allegations against Chiranjeevi," said Chinni. He also claimed that he facilitated his meeting with Chandrababu Naidu at that time and helped him join TDP.

Amid the war of words, Chinni predicted that Nani would lose the election by a margin of 3 lakh votes.

With TDP having an electoral alliance with the BJP and PawanKalyan-led Jana Sena Party, Chinni is likely to have an edge in the battle.

Nani and Chinni belong to the well-known family of

businessmen in Vijayawada.

Their grandfather KesineniVenkaiah had started the first inter-city bus transport service in Andhra in 1928. Nani had established Kesineni Tours & Travels in 1992, which became one of the largest transport operators in South India. He later diversified the business with Kesineni Group, which is into intercity transportation, logistics and hospitality.

Chinni is the CEO of Kesineni Developers, a leading construction company. He has also been actively involved in politics.

Vijayawada was once a stronghold of the Congress party. Though TDP had bagged the seat in 1984, 1991 and 1999, the Congress party was a key

force. However, public anger over bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 led to the grand old party being wiped out and Vijayawada was no exception.

In 2014, Nani won the Vijayawada seat, defeating his nearest rival KoneruRajendra Prasad of YSRCP by a margin of over 74,000 votes.

In July 2018, Nani on behalf of his party had moved a no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha against the NDA government. During his speech on the motion, he had slammed Prime Minister NarendraModi for not fulfilling the promises made in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014.

In 2019, Nani's margin of victory came down to 8,726 in 2019. Prasad V. Potluri of YSRCP had finished runner-up.

Vijayawada was one of the only three Lok Sabha seats (out of 25 in the state) won by the TDP in 2019.

Muslim votes in UP to split to BJP's advantage

History shows that a division in Muslim votes in Uttar Pradesh has invariably worked to the advantage of the BharatiyaJanata Party and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls are no different.

The only difference this time is that a sizeable section of Muslim votes is preparing to split in favour of BJP which is bound to be an added advantage for the party.

Muslims account for 19 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's population and their voting behaviour is likely to define the outcome on around 24 Lok Sabha seats, having a 20-50 per cent Muslim population.

The Samajwadi Party-Congress seat-sharing deal for the Lok Sabha elections may have raised expectations in the alliance that it will consolidate the Muslim vote and fortify the INDIA bloc's position in at least 24 Muslim-dominated constituencies out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh.

However, as elections draw near, the BSP and AIMIM are set to force a split in Muslim votes. A popular saying in Uttar Pradesh goes thus: 'Pehlabhai (read Muslim), PhirSapai (SP) auruskebaad Congress-I.'

This explains the Muslim voting pattern in the state.

The BSP, in a shrewd move, has fielded five Muslim candidates out of seven unofficially announced so far. They include Aqil Ahmed Patta from Kannauj, a seat considered a stronghold of SP. Patta had joined BSP a few months ago, after crossing over from SP.

The other Muslim candidates are IrfanSaifi from Moradabad, Anish Ahmed Khan aka PhoolBabu from Pilibhit, Majid Ali from Saharanpur and MujahidHussain from Amroha. The party had won Amroha and Saharanpur parliamentary seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"There are many more Muslim candidates on the way but we need to wait for the list," said a party insider. The AIMIM is also preparing to field candidates in about two dozen seats having a sizeable Muslim population. It is amply clear that



more than winning the seats themselves, the AIMIM and BSP are keen to defeat the INDIA constituents (SP and Congress).

The leaders of both, BSP and AIMIM, are aware that a division in Muslim votes will give the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) an advantage.

However, there is also a perceptible change in the Muslim mood in Uttar Pradesh and the community is no longer as hostile towards the BJP as it used to be.

The ban on triple talaq and the benefits of welfare schemes initiated by the Modi and Yogi governments that have reached Muslim women, have led to a change in perception.

AishaZaidi, a home maker said, "In the past 10 years, the BJP has not harmed us in any way. In fact, we have benefitted under the Modi regime. I do not see anything wrong in voting for BJP -- In fact, I will vote for Modi this time." BJP's 'Shukriya Modi Bhai Jaan' that reached out to Muslim women, was also highly successful and elicited a good response.

If Muslims vote for large numbers in the UP Lok Sabha polls - as is expected -- it could finally break the myth of Muslim voting pattern in the state

The Muslim-dominated Lok Sabha seats include Saharanpur (29.6 per cent), Muzaffarnagar (27 per cent), Bijnor (28 per cent), Nagina (28 per cent), Moradabad (28 per cent), Rampur (42 per cent), Sambhal (22 per cent), Amroha (32 per cent), Meerut (23 per cent), Sitapur (24 per cent), Kairana (23 per cent), Bareilly (23 per cent), Pilibhit (19 per cent), Shahjahanpur (21 per cent), Bahraich (23 per cent), Shravasti (28 per cent), Dumariaganj (26 per cent) and Lucknow (23 per cent).

Is this Lotus blooming time in South

By Dr. Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao

The 2024 parliamentary elections are considered as historic by many for many reasons and one such reason being the likely victory of BJP in the southern states. The lotus bloom in their states is discounted by the southern regional leaders as their very political culture based on the regional pride is anathema to the philosophy of the saffron party. However BJP top leadership is so confident, sometimes bordered on over confidence, of its lotus harvest this time even in Kerala, the hitherto barren state for that party, and that being expressed by no less than chief campaigner PM Modi in many meetings in that state. The well-known political strategist Prashant Kishore comment that entire south as anti-BJP is not acceptable as that party was either in the ruling or the prime opposition party in Karnataka for the last 30 odd years. Though the strategist is not ready endorse the blooming

confidence of BJP, he is ready to see some surprising results in the south in favour of that party. The south based political observers say the perpetual campaign mode of BJP is what going to fructify in the coming elections across the country and south is no more terra incognita for saffron surge.

The reports emanating from the southern states say the climate is favourable for BJP to breach the regional political forts of south. They already succeeded, though not directly, in eliminating one regional party, BRS, in Telangana. The party which led the agitation for the formation of separate state is now struggling to find candidates to contest in 17 Lok Sabha constituencies. Thus making it largely a straight fight with Congress. Wherever BJP was in straight contest with Congress its winning chance are better and Telangana may not be different. Since BJP won 4 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 elections facing both BRS and Congress this time it is hoping to improve its numbers in



Telangana.

Andhra Pradesh is the only state in the south which is having simultaneous elections for assembly and Lok Sabha elections and ruling YSRCP headed by Jaganmohana Reddy (Jagan) is confident of coming back to power basing on the

freebies he offered during the last four years. This situation is cleverly used by the BJP to its advantage. Chandrababu Naidu of TDP was compelled to join NDA and concede 6 Lok Sabha seats to the BJP in Andhra Pradesh where saffron party never had 1% vote share. For

his political survival Chandrababu Naidu has bear the burden of getting the BJP candidates to win, as any loss of BJP in the allotted seats means that many seats are a gift his political rival and current CM Jaganmohan Reddy. Thus the BJP chose the piggy ride on Naidu and the cine star turned politician PawanKalyan and his JSP to have successful lotus harvest.

Tamil Nadu which kept the national parties at bay ever since Dravid parties came to power in 1967 has thrown up a surprising political situation where BJP became the main challenger for the DMK hegemony. Tamils who were swayed by the Hindu-Hindi rhetoric for the last five decades are now ready to welcome BJP into their state. All those stanch Hindus and the communities which were excluded by the DMK in power sharing have now joined hands with BJP. One man, the former IPS officer turned politician and presently state BJP chief, Annamalai is credited in laying the field for

the lotus bloom. Under his leadership BJP won four assembly seats in 2021 elections and this time the party is confident of winning a minimum of four Lok Sabha seats. This is made possible as BJP could attract Tamil Manila Congress, founded by Moopanar and present Congress leader P. Chidambaram, and PMK, another community based party with influence in the coastal areas. By the time results are out many observers see the decimation of once powerful, MGR-Jayalalithaa led, AIADMK. With Congress lost its will to make a political come back in Tamil Nadu and its leaders remained satisfied to play a secondary role to DMK, the bloom of BJP is made possible. As BJP state chief Annamalai states 25% vote share in 2024 elections and to be in power in the state after 2026 assembly elections may not be that difficult if the same tempo is maintained by BJP in Tamil land.

Perhaps Kerala is the toughest state for BJP and Left parties

take pride in keeping BJP away from their God's own Country. The high literacy and better social indices achieved by Kerala is stated by Left leaders as the reason for rational thinking of voters and not accepting 'communal' BJP, though the Left runs blatantly run Minority communal politics under the garb of secularism. That pseudo secular nature of both Left and Congress politics is evident in their competitive issuance of secular certification for Muslim league and how Hindu voters are divided on the caste lines. This 75 year old pseudo secular narrative is on the verge of breaching. The Hindu consciousness was successfully aroused through the judicial verdict on Sabarimala and the Left government handling of temples which is being cashed by BJP besides the grass root work of RSS cadre. Though not many seats are given to BJP by the political observes but none of them are ruling out the rising political graph of saffron party in red Kerala.

CA expresses interest to host India-Pakistan bilateral series: Reports

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Cricket Australia (CA) has expressed interest in hosting a bilateral series between India and Pakistan, should the BCCI and PCB mutually agree to matches between the two teams in future, say reports. India and Pakistan have not played a bilateral series since 2012-13 and the two nations only meet at global ICC events such as World Cups and the Champions Trophy.

The two Asian nations will be in Australia at the same time this November as the CA announced its international schedule with Pakistan playing three ODI matches and three T20Is shortly before India arrive for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, starting from November 22.

According to a Sydney Morning Herald report, CA cricket operations manager Peter Roach said on Tuesday that the national body would love to be able



to host a match between India and Pakistan and will continue to express interest to the boards of both countries.

"Going forward, we're always interested in opportunities for matches and content that will engage our fans and it's fair to say that every country in the world would love to see India and Pakistan compete in their country," Roach said.

"We are on the record as saying that we're one of

those countries that have asked the question. There is no room in the schedules to do that at the moment but we'll keep talking to them (about) any other opportunities that arise. But in this specific example, there are not going to be any changes to that schedule," he added.

Tickets for a T20 World Cup showdown between rival nations at the MCG in 2022 sold out within five minutes, attracting over 90,000 fans. Similarly, a

clash in Adelaide in 2015 was also highly sought after. This demand might have prompted suggestions that Australia could be an ideal neutral venue for future Pakistan-India matches.

CA chief executive Nick Hockley also reiterated desire to host the two Asian nations for a bilateral series.

"I think anyone that was here for the India-Pakistan game at the MCG, it will go down as one of the most memorable occasions, not just sporting occasions, that I've ever been to. We would love to host that if the opportunity arose. If we can play a role, we'd love to play a role.

"We're so excited to host Pakistan. We're so excited to host India. If we can help, that's great. But I think in many ways, that's a bilateral series. It's really for others to make that happen," he was quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

'Wound back the clock', Steve Smith in awe of Dhoni's quick-reflex diving catch in Chepauk

Chennai, March 27 (IANS) Though CSK innings ended on Tuesday without the former CSK skipper MS Dhoni needing to bat but the legendary wicketkeeper-batter elevated the excitement among the fans with a sensational diving catch during the match against the Gujarat Titans (GT) at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Dhoni has showcased his quick reflex with an excellent diving grab behind the stumps, leaving the home crowd to erupt in joy. A graphic from the host broadcasters later revealed that the wicketkeeper has stretched a remarkable distance of 2.27 meters to secure the catch off Daryl Mitchell's delivery, resulting in the dismissal of Vijay Shankar.

Dhoni's scintillating effort behind the stumps left Australia batter Steve Smith in awe and Aussie hailed the 42-year-old's



wicketkeeping prowess.

"Yeah, wound back the clock, didn't he? Just put a dive in there, it was 2.27 meters, it came up on the coverage, it was a great catch. He was standing a bit closer because Darryl Mitchell is not the quickest of bowlers so he was up nice and tight, didn't have a great deal of time to react but his reactions are certainly still

there, aren't they? Covered ground nicely and just stuck in that right hand," Smith said on Star Sports Cricket Live show.

Former England fast bowler Stuart Broad also joined in applauding Dhoni, noting that the wicketkeeper-batter has the remarkable ability to impact or alter the course of a game in an instant, even without having to bat

in that particular match.

"He's still pretty good, isn't he? He's a legend of the game. I feel for MS, he doesn't have to bat in a game and still manages to have a moment that moves or changes the game in less than a second. His teammates swarmed in delighted for him and the crowd in Chennai loved it so it was a great moment in the night," added Broad.

Djokovic ends partnership with coach Ivanisevic amid winless start to season

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) World number one Novak Djokovic has ended his partnership with Croatian coach Goran Ivanisevic following a challenging start to his 2024 season.Djokovic and Ivanisevic, the former Wimbledon champion, forged a formidable bond since joining forces in 2018. Under Ivanisevic's guidance, Djokovic honed his skills and embarked on a remarkable journey that saw him surpass tennis legends Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to become the most successful men's singles player in Grand Slam history.Taking to Instagram on Wednesday, March 27, Djokovic confirmed the split, acknowledging the duo's on-court chemistry fluctuated over the years but emphasizing the enduring strength of their friendship."Goran and I decided to stop working together a few days ago. Our on-court chemistry had its ups and downs, but our friendship was always rock solid," said Djokovic."I remember clearly the moment I invited Goran to be part of my team. It was back in 2018, and Marian and I were looking to innovate and bring some serve magic to our duo. In fact, not only we brought serve, but also lots of laughter, fun, year end no 1 rankings, record breaking achievements and 12 more Grand Slams (and a few finals) to the count since then. Did I mention a bit of drama too?"

Stuart Broad hails Bumrah as most complete T20 bowler

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Former England pacer Stuart Broad has heaped praise on Jasprit Bumrah, calling him as the most complete T20 bowler in the world ahead of the eagerly anticipated clash between the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and the Mumbai Indians (MI) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Wednesday.

With both teams eager to secure their first win of the season, the showdown between SRH's Heinrich Klaasen and MI's Bumrah is poised to be a highlight of the match, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

Following their respective heart-breaking losses in the opening games, SRH and MI are determined to bounce back and gain crucial points in the IPL 2024 season. Klaasen's explosive batting prowess nearly propelled SRH to victory in their previous match, while Bumrah marked his IPL return with an impressive performance, claiming figures of 3 for 14 in four overs.Speaking to Star Sports, Broad expressed admiration for Bumrah's exceptional skills, emphasizing his effectiveness as a T20 bowler.

"Honestly, he looks superb. If there is anyone who is a complete T20 bowler in the world, it has to be him," Broad told Star Sports."And the battle to watch out for tomorrow is between Klaasen and Bumrah. Klaasen is probably the most in-form T20 batter at the moment. He is hitting sixes for fun. Nearly got the team over the line from an impossible position against KKR. As soon as he walks into the crease, what do I do?" he added.

Paris 2024 official stamp unveiled at Postal Museum

Paris, March 27 (IANS) The official stamp for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, in collaboration between the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and La Poste Group, was officially released at the French Postal Museum.

Drawing inspiration from the visual identity of the Paris Olympics, the stamp highlights iconic places like the Eiffel Tower and the River Seine, with sporting elements of

athletics tracks and ball bounces featured in it. The stamp has exceptional finishes with hot stamping, Xinhua reports."This stamp carries the colors of Paris 2024 and will fully contribute to opening up the Games. We can't wait to see it travel in France and around the world," said Tony Estanguet, President of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee.

La Poste Group issued its first official Olympic



stamp in 1924, when Paris hosted the eighth Summer Olympic Games. Subsequent Olympic events in France, such as the Grenoble Winter Olympics in 1968 and the Albertville Winter Olympics in 1992, also saw the release of Olympic stamps by La Poste Group. Following the successful bid of Paris to host the 2024 Summer Olympics in 2017, La Poste Group commemorated the

occasion by releasing a special stamp.

"La Poste is proud to issue this emblematic stamp. Rich in symbols, it reflects the soul of the Games and allows Paris 2024 to travel and shine across the world," stated Philippe Wahl, president and CEO of La Poste Group.The official Olympic stamp, priced at 1.96 euros (2.12 U.S. dollars), will see a circulation of 800,000 copies and go on sale on March 29.

Miami Open: Bopanna-Ebden pair enter men's doubles semifinal

Florida, March 27 (IANS) Indian tennis ace Rohan Bopanna and his Australian teammate Matthew Ebden sailed into men's doubles semifinal at the Miami Open.

Top seeds Indian-Australian pair, currently ranked second in the world, needed a Match Tie-break to advance. The duo overcame Dutch-Australian pair John-Patrick Smith and Sem Verbeek 3-6, 7-6(7-4), 10-7 to reach the last four.

The Australian Open champions next face Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos or Lloyd Glasspool and Jean-Julien Rojer.This was Bopanna and Ebden's third semifinal together this year. They had also reached the last-four of the Adelaide Open in



January this year and also made the summit clash but eventually lost to English-American pair Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram.

Notably, Bopanna became the oldest first-time world no. 1 at the age of 43, achieving the top ranking in men's doubles following

the success at the Australian Open this January.

However, the duo slipped to second spot in the ATP rankings after their quarterfinal loss at the Dubai Championships and a round-of-32 exit at the Indian Wells Masters.

De Silva, Mendis gain big in ICC Test rankings after Sylhet twin tons

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Sri Lanka batters Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis have made huge gain in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings after both the batters notched twin centuries in the first Test of the two-match series against Bangladesh in Sylhet to help their side score a comprehensive 328-run victory.

De Silva has moved up 15 spots to a career-best 14th position while Mendis has re-entered the rankings in joint-64th position after recording only the third instance in Test history of two players from the same team scoring a century in each innings of a Test match, ICC reports.

The previous two instances were of



Australia's Ian Chappell and Greg Chappell against New Zealand in Wellington in 1974 and Pakistan's Azhar Ali and Misbah-ul-Haq against Australia in Abu Dhabi in 2014.

Sri Lanka's new-ball bowlers Kasun Rajitha and Vishwa Fernando have also made notable gains in the latest men's rankings update. Rajitha has jumped six places to 38th position

after returning match figures of eight for 112 while Fernando has moved from 50th to 43rd after finishing with seven for 84.

Bangladesh's middle-order batter Mominul Haque's second innings knock of 87 has lifted him eight places to 50th while fast bowler Khaled Ahmed's four wickets in the match have taken him from 98th to 89th position.

PCB looking to bring Babar Azam back as captain: Sources

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board it appears has lost faith in the ability of Shan Masood and Shaheen Shah Afridi to lead the national side and feels former skipper Babar Azam is the best choice to captain the side once again.

Babar had quit as Pakistan captain across all formats after his team failed to make it past the group stages during the ODI World Cup in India last year.

While Masood was appointed captain in the Test format, Shaheen was made the T20I skipper.

Sources in the PCB think-tank said the board had come to the conclusion that, with no viable option available, Babar was the best choice to lead the side again.

"The funny part is that the powers that be appear to have lost faith in Shan Masood and Shaheen Shah Afridi's ability to lead the national side in Test and T20 formats with the change in the board's chairmanship," a source confided.

The source added that the interesting part is that Babar is now showing some attitude.

"Feelers have been sent out to Babar to find out if he is ready to take charge again and he has shown some reservations. Apparently, he wants some assurances from the board chairman," the source added.

My name these days is attached to just promoting T20 cricket but I have still got it: Kohli

Bengaluru: Not just a marketable name to promote T20 cricket, he's still got the game. This was the subtle message Virat Kohli sent out amid unfounded chatter surrounding his place in the side ahead of the World Cup's debut appearance in the United States.

Kohli, who is back after a two-month paternity break, scored a match-winning 77 off 49 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday night against Punjab Kings and deservedly walked away with the player of the match honours.

"I know my name is nowadays quite attached to just promoting the game in many parts of the world when it comes to T20 cricket. But, I've still got it, I guess," said the 35-year-old father of two in the post-match presentation.

His comments came in the backdrop of never-ending media speculation surrounding the team's composition for the big event to be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies starting June 1.

Former players like Kevin Pietersen have asked whether Kohli would make the Indian squad purely on merit or for being a megastar who will pull in fans. Kohli averages over 50 in the format and has a strike rate of 138.15.

On Monday night, hallmark of Kohli's classy knock was the way he stepped out to dispatch the fast bowlers over the extra cover boundary.

The former India captain has nothing left to



prove but he realises the need for constant evolution in T20 format.

"Well I mean you have to (make additions to your game)," he said when asked about going aerial against the pacers on the off-side.

"People know I play the cover drive pretty well so they're not going to allow me to hit gaps and with guys like KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Arshdeep (Singh) as well, he's tall. So, I mean, if they're hitting length, you have to

create some momentum in the ball.

"And once you're closer to the ball, you kind of negate the bounce that's going to happen. You meet it earlier. So, I mean, you have to come up with a game plan here and there and try to keep improving your game," he explained at the post-match presentation.

It was surreal not to be recognised for two months: Kohli had missed the five-match Test series against England as he was overseas for the birth of his second child. The long break allowed him to spend much needed quality time with his family and not being recognised on the streets was something that he enjoyed the most.

"We were not in the country. We were at a place where people were not recognising us. Just time together as a family, just to feel normal for two months. For me, for us as a family, it was a surreal experience.

"Of course, having two kids, things become totally different from a family perspective. So just the ability to be together, the connections that you make with your older child, it's amazing.

"I mean, I couldn't have been more grateful to God for the opportunity that I got to spend time with my family."

For Kohli, not being mobbed is a luxury and he loved every bit of his time away from the limelight.

"And yeah, just the place that we were in, I was telling the guys (RCB teammates) that

when we came back, the voices back home felt that much louder.

"I couldn't look up because I was just not used to being called my name for two months. And then immediately you hear these loud noises and then you're back in it all again.

"But it was beautiful. It's an amazing experience to just be another person on the road and not be recognised and just carry on about life that normally people would on a daily basis," he said.

Kohli is also forever grateful to the loyal and passionate RCB fans who keep backing the team that is yet to win the IPL.

"It's been going on for years and you know, people talk about a lot of other things when you play sport. The achievements, the stats, the numbers. Look at the end of the day when you look back you're not going to think of the numbers and the stats.

"It's the memories that you create. Famously, Rahul bhai (India head coach) in the change room nowadays says exactly the same to us. When you play, you play your heart out because you're going to miss these times when you're with your friends in the change room playing in front of fans.

"So the relationship that's happened organically over so many years it's something that I can never ever forget. Just the love and the appreciation and the backing I've received for so many years that's been amazing," Kohli added.

All that glitters is gold

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS)lfe) Tanishq, India's premier jewellery brand, embarks on a magical journey that delves deep into the heart of the glorious past. Introducing the 'Dharohar' collection, Tanishq pays a heartfelt tribute to the timeless charm of heirloom artifacts from an era long gone by, beautifully weaving a connection between the old and new legacies, bridging generations with a sense of heritage and nostalgia.

'Dharohar' is more than just a collection, it is a celebration of the heart-warming narratives that have shaped the magnificent past. It is a testament to the traditions handed down through generations, from treasured family recipes to cherished memories that define who we are. With 'Dharohar,' Tanishq introduces a new chapter in the stories of old.

Revathi Kant, Chief Design Officer, Titan Company Limited and Sampurna Rakshit, Marketing Head, Mia by Tanishq speaks with IANS.

Q. 3.5 million weddings this season has brought the spotlight back on the big fat Indian wedding. What are the jewellery trends that have made an impact?

Revathi Kant: Weddings are a time in India where brides really want to have their moment. So the for the main occasion, brides today, the young genZ, the millennial brides really want to dress up and go for maximalism. Big heavy jewellery, diamonds, polki and kundan are all in trend, what has changed probably, I would say is the colour combinations, so jewels like emeralds and rubies are in demand, jewellery that matches pastel hues are also in fashion. They're also



picking up a lot of interesting pieces which they can wear wear more often. And there are all of these smaller occasions for which a pair statement earring or cocktail rings are the focus. So big statement pieces are very much in.

So on one side there is this whole set of jewellery which is traditional heritage, which you celebrate Indianness and also lightweight jewellery which you can wear often and its more adornment, it's for fun. The second reason is where gold rate is headed, it makes a lot of sense to have lightweight jewellery with a fair enough, good enough spread which creates that visual drama. So that's really the trend.

Q. With Mia, do yo feel the brand focuses on women empowerment and is centred around women putting themselves first, choosing what works for

launched for the star in you, which really you know talks about empowering and up-lifting. Your best version, so the Mia woman is is very clear, she certainly chooses what she wants, she picks out jewellery appeals to her and celebrates herself.

Q. In India gold and jewellery is huge unorganised market which does sales in huge volumes. In terms of marketing, how do you expect to capture, and consolidate this market under various brands?

Sampurna Rakshit: So actually for us, one of the biggest assets that we have is the trust of Tata and the trust of Tanishq, even for Mia as well. I think that sets us apart from the unorganised market completely. Besides that, our designs and craftsmanship is unparalleled. There is no comparison to the finish that we provide the

craftsmanship that we provide for both the brands and their own unique ways. So we have never really look back or look around what is happening. We always try to give our entire focus is on the consumer, on what she deserves and our entire approach is to give them the best that we can and stand for what she believes in.

So that is where we are coming from for Mia this year, the year has been really good, despite increasing gold prices, it is helped the case of 14 carat lightweight jewellery brands, and so we have approached the festive season in a very different way when it comes to marketing. I think our latest campaign is all about, as she said, for the star Indian. We have RakulPreet Singh on board with us. I think Rakul will also give us a lot of mileage and a lot of

consideration and it will help us stand out in the sea of communications.

Q. During the wedding season, it always helps to have couple of Bollywood names tie the knot. What do you think in terms of Bollywood's impact for this coming season?

Revathi Kant: Bollywood has always had a large impact on this category. I think apparel and jewelry are two categories in India which are strongly influenced by this. So you know, when we did, for example, a Padmaavat, we know the kind of influence it had and how it set trends. Bollywood weddings are really transitive, so today there are large events and celebrity driven events which definitely have a huge impact and and lot of people wish to follow that. So in fact, coming to jewellery.

The comprehensive wellness benefits of hot water bath

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS)lfe) The practice of bathing in warm water has a rich and storied past, extending far beyond its utilitarian function. Woven into the cultural fabric of diverse societies throughout history, from the Roman bathhouses to the onsen traditions of Japan.

It has served as a cornerstone of both personal hygiene and holistic well-being. However, the allure of warm water bathing transcends mere cultural tradition. In an era characterised by relentless technological advancement and pervasive stress, the ability to carve out moments of self-care is paramount.

Hot water bathing presents itself as a readily available and powerful tool for promoting holistic wellness. Recent scientific research has shed light on a compelling array of health benefits associated with this seemingly simple practice.

Vikram Raman, Vice President, Marketing and E-Commerce of Ariston Thermo India said: "Stepping into a warm bath triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. This, in turn, activates the parasympathetic nervous system, responsible for the body's 'rest and digest' response. According to a study published in EatingWell, regular hot water immersion may increase a brain chemical called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which is associated with mood regulation and cognitive function. At the same time, hot water immersion may also reduce the stress hormone cortisol, which can have negative effects on mental and physical health. Therefore, hot water immersion can significantly reduce stress hormone levels, leading to feelings of calmness and relaxation." The warmth from a bath can also work wonders for promoting better sleep. Raman asserts that studies have shown, a warm bath taken 1-2 hours before bedtime can help regulate body temperature.

He said: "As your body cools down afterwards, it mimics the natural sleep-onset process, leading to deeper and more restful sleep. A study published in Sleep Medicine Reviews found that taking a warm bath or



shower 1-2 hours before bedtime, at a temperature of 40-43 degrees celsius can improve sleep quality by changing the body's core temperature and circadian rhythm. The study revealed that people who took warm baths before bed experienced significant improvements in sleep quality, falling asleep faster and waking up less frequently throughout the night. This improved sleep, in turn, can contribute to better cognitive function, mood regulation, and overall health."

The warmth and buoyancy of a hot bath can significantly ease muscle tension and stiffness. A study conducted by Arthritis Foundation suggests that warm water immersion can be an effective pain management tool, particularly for individuals suffering from chronic pain conditions like arthritis and fibromyalgia.

"Patients suffering from such conditions who participated in warm water exercise programs two or three times a week could move around better and have as much as 40 per cent less pain.

The warmth helps to increase blood flow to the affected areas, promoting relaxation and reducing muscle spasms. Moreover, the buoyancy can take pressure off sore joints, providing much-needed relief," says Raman.

While more research is needed, some studies suggest that regular hot water bathing may offer potential cardiovascular benefits. A study

published by Harvard Health revealed that people who took a daily warm or hot bath had a 28 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular disease and a 26 per cent lower risk of stroke. Researchers hypothesise that the warmth may cause vasodilation, or the widening of blood vessels, which could potentially improve blood flow and reduce strain on the heart. Aside from the aforementioned benefits, hot water baths offer a range of other potential benefits, Raman highlights:

Improved circulation: The warmth can increase blood flow, promoting overall circulation and delivering essential nutrients to the body's tissues. This can contribute to improved skin health, faster healing, and even better cognitive function.

Boosted immune system: Some studies suggest that warm baths may help stimulate the immune system, possibly by increasing white blood cell activity, although more research is needed to confirm this. Relief from skin conditions: Soaking in warm water with added ingredients like oatmeal or Epsom salts can help soothe dry, itchy skin and alleviate symptoms of eczema and psoriasis. The warm water helps to open pores and remove irritants, while the added ingredients can provide additional moisturizing and soothing properties. While hot water bathing offers numerous benefits, Raman stresses on the importance to exercise caution.

Elevating drinking experience, quality over quantity

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS)lfe) "The impact of glass size on a notable wine is quite remarkable. When you take a bold, aged wine, which is rich in flavours and structure, and pour it into a small glass, then switch it to a larger glass, you notice the difference almost instantly. The change is evident in the refinement of aromas; their enhanced appreciation becomes palpable," says Magandeep Singh, wine sommelier, and Lucaris Crystal brand influencer.

In its most recent event, Magandeep Singh, a well-known wine sommelier collaborates with Lucaris Crystal, a luxury Thai glassware brand for wine and spirits, to elevate the wine-tasting experience to a new level with its latest launch.

In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Singh, an expert in wine and glassware, discusses how using the appropriate glass for the drink may enhance the drinking experience.

Read an excerpt:

Could you share the story of how your collaboration with Lucaris came about, and what attracted you to work with this brand?

MS: The collaboration stemmed from a prior alignment and mutual appreciation between Lucaris and me on various projects. We both value our approach to work, emphasising attention to quality and detail. Lucaris is a brand impeccably suited for the Indian market. It is truly a subject I find delight in promoting and discussing, simply because



I believe it possesses all the necessary elements to thrive as a successful brand in India. This partnership presents an opportunity to shed light on these attributes, making Lucaris an engaging topic for conversations.

As a certified sommelier, you have a deep understanding of wine and glassware. How do you think Lucaris glassware enhances the wine-tasting experience?

MS: Well, it is an intriguing debate whether it is the science behind the glass shape or the aesthetic allure that enhances our sensory experience. Wine appreciation can be perceived as a blend of science and art, especially when considering how the shape of a glass impacts the wine-tasting experience. At its core, indulging in food and drink initially engages our senses. When presented with an aesthetically

pleasing glass, the experience begins on a heightened note. That is the true essence of glassware. While there are undeniable scientific underpinnings to these glasses' functionality, the immediate visual appeal contributes significantly to our overall perception, setting the stage for an elevated experience from the onset. In today's digital age, how are you leveraging digital platforms to educate and engage wine enthusiasts about the importance of glassware in wine tasting?

MS: Absolutely, digital is the buzzword, and we have embraced this realm with our exclusive series 'A Glass Apart' in collaboration with Lucaris and Magandeep Singh'. Through this series, we aim to educate individuals about the diverse world and nuances of glassware, emphasising the benefits of crystal and delving into

various glass types. Though the series is relatively new, about three or four episodes in, it is gaining substantial traction. We are delighted to see good engagement levels, receiving numerous inquiries from both consumers and trade communities. The plan is to continue addressing these queries in the forthcoming episodes, ensuring a steady stream of valuable content for our audience. So, yes, our digital efforts have been quite successful thus far.

Please shed some light on the educational masterclasses you conducted with Lucaris glassware. How has it helped the brand till now?

MS: We took the concept of 'A Glass Apart' on the ground as educational masterclasses. These sessions involve tasting premium wines transferred from standard glasses to Lucaris stemware specifically designed for distinct wine styles. The experience itself is a testament to its efficacy. Through this exercise, the need to persuade attendees about the enhancement and the explanation behind it is nil; they can sense and taste the difference themselves. These classes occur monthly, with a limited attendance of only 14 seats, maintaining an exclusive and sought-after status. Attendees appreciate and enjoy these sessions, arriving punctually, and the response has been exceedingly positive.

Glassware has a significant influence on the wine-drinking experience, a fact that might not be widely recognized.

Unearth the Rainbow Nation

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS)lfe) As the year gains momentum and travellers embark on checking off their bucket lists, numerous hidden gems await discovery, eager to be unveiled. For wanderlusts, these destinations project new desires to explore the unexplored and charter the roads less travelled. With the landscape of travel continuously evolving, play along and embark on an exploration of novel experiences that transcend geological boundaries.

The essence of travel lies in the discovery of unfound gems and underrated cultures. Enriched by multiple less frequented destinations, the idea of exploring the Rainbow Nation appears ever so appealing. Often associated with iconic destinations such as Cape Town and Johannesburg, the country has so much more to offer if one goes beyond these well-trodden paths. Trading the familiarity of popular,



mainstream destinations with untouched landscapes could be your very first stepping stone to embrace the thrill of the unknown, and when you get there, your camera lens will finally experience the unparalleled beauty that it has been missing all along.

Serenade By the Sounds at Augrabies Falls National Park

Laced with stunning views and opportunities to hike around the free-flowing rivers, the Augrabies Falls National Park is located in the vicinity of Upington along the banks of the formidable Orange River. Appreciating the incredible sounds generated from the powerful flow of the 56-metre-high waterfall here the Khoi people of South Africa often refer to the park as "Aulkorebis", translating to "the place of great noise". While there are no large predators here, expect to encounter Giraffes, Zebras, African Wild Cats,

Springbok, and more along with rare sightings of Leopards. Besides, the park is also home to multiple fascinating rock formations to check out. One can also go against the currents of the Orange River and enjoy

water sports such as white-water rafting and kayaking. Become Captive to The Natural Beauty of Coffee Bay

Tucked away in the Wild Coast of South Africa, Coffee Bay is famous for its

prominent geographical marvel - Hole in the Wall. Placed right in the path of Mpako River the elements of the rock stacked offshore have eroded a hole thus creating a beautiful arch. The Xhosa mythology

credits the phenomenon to a romantic tale of semi-deities. Coffee Bay is surrounded by a rich diversity of wild flora and fauna, inviting you to embark on hour-long strolls and become captive to the town's scenic beauties. Try taking a leisurely break under the canopy of milkwood trees or dive for a swim right before lunch. You can conclude the day driving back along a picturesque road and return in time to sip your favourite sundowner drink.

Gaze The Turquoise Waters of Langebaan Lagoon

Safeguarded within the West Coast National Park, Langebaan is a saltwater lagoon and a remarkable international treasure. A paradise for bird enthusiasts, the intertidal area of this 16-km-long waterbody attracts as many as 55,000 water birds in the summer. Striking an intense turquoise blue shade, the lagoon is also responsible

for supporting a huge population of crabs and snails along with 70 different marine algae serving as a nursery to juvenile fish. What makes it unique is its self-sustaining nature where the lagoon shapes itself by the rise and fall of sea levels. If you are a beachbody, make your way to the coast for a relaxing swim or a comforting picnic or spend time exploring a series of unique salt marshes that make up the biggest salt marsh area in South Africa.

Hide In the Mountains with The Hidden Village of Hogsback

A charming village hidden in the elevated Amatola range, Hogsback is an enigmatic world of mountains and forests. Wrapped in the native Afromontane Forest, the village offers a rejuvenating experience. Posing dramatic natural beauty, the mountains are host to numerous hiking trails attracting adventure seekers

from around the world taking them through an exploration journey of glorious waterfalls. This little sanctuary is also the home to the last surviving Cape parrots and vibrant KnysnaLoerie as well as long-crested eagles and crowned eagles. With breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, Hogsback is a haven for wanderers. During winters you will also find the lower-lying parts of the village covered in a blanket of snow.

Stand Above the Valley of Desolation

Offering breathtaking views from the top, the Valley of Desolation in the Eastern Cape is essentially a geological phenomenon that surrounds the town of Graaff-Reinet. A national monument located within the Camdeboo National Park, the valley is popular for its Karoo Landscape and the charming Karoo-styled homes of the town it encompasses as well as its historic museums.

SP changes Moradabad candidate, drops sitting MP

Moradabad (UP), March 27 (IANS) The Samajwadi Party has cancelled the candidature of its sitting MP, S T Hasan, and has named Ruchi Veera as its candidate for the Moradabad Lok Sabha seat. District magistrate Manvendra Singh said, "We have cancelled the form filed by S T Hasan and a new form has been filed for Ruchi Veera who is now the SP candidate. Meanwhile, S T Hasan said, "Akhilesh Yadav and Azam Khan are leaders of the party and they must have taken the decision after much deliberation. It is their party and they will decide who will contest."

AAP's lone Lok Sabha MP from Jalandhar Sushil Kumar Rinku joins BJP

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) In a major political setback to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, the party's lone MP in the Lok Sabha, Sushil Kumar Rinku (48), joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Wednesday. In the bypoll to the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency held in May last year, Rinku trounced Congress' Karamjit Kaur by a thumping margin of 58,691 votes, as the grand old party faced defeat in the seat for the first time since 1999. Rinku, a former Congress leader, joined the BJP in the presence of the party's National General Secretary Vinod Tawde and Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar at the party headquarters here. AAP MLA from Jalandhar (West), Sheetal Angural, also joined the saffron party along with Rinku. After joining the BJP, Rinku told the media, "I have taken this decision for the development of Jalandhar. We will take Jalandhar forward. We will bring all the projects of the Central government to Jalandhar."

ED asks CPI-M's Pathanamthitta LS candidate Isaac to appear before it on Monday

Thiruvananthapuram, March 27 (IANS) CPI-M's Pathanamthitta Lok Sabha seat candidate and former Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac was on Wednesday served the sixth notice by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), asking him to appear before them on Monday in connection with masala bonds issue case. Isaac, who is busy with his campaign, accused the ED of "unleashing threats". "The ED should not forget that this is Kerala and not north India. The ED is not going to cut my nose if I don't appear. Anyway, I am approaching the Kerala High Court on Monday," he said. However, despite his best efforts to get a stay, he is yet to get any relief from the Kerala High Court, which orally pointed out last month that "it's only a summons". A total of Rs 2,150 crore was raised through the masala bonds by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) in 2019 when Isaac was the Finance Minister in the first Pinarayi Vijayan government (2016-21).

DMK leader, ex-Union Min Dayanidhi Maran files nomination for Chennai Central

Chennai, March 27 (IANS) Senior DMK leader and sitting MP, Dayanidhi Maran, filed his nomination papers for the Chennai Central Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday. Dayanidhi Maran filed his nomination papers before the Regional Deputy Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, KJ Praveen Kumar. The former Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology lashed out against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking to media persons after filing his nomination papers. Dayanidhi Maran said that the Union government of PM Modi had failed to ensure the economic development of the nation. He said that be it COVID-19 or the recent floods, the DMK has stood at the forefront of all issues to assist the people of Tamil Nadu. When he went for filing his nomination papers, the DMK leader was accompanied by TN Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Minister, Sekar Babu, DMK MLA, MK Mohan and DMK leader in the Council, N Ramalingam.

Rajasthan's top Cong & BJP leaders in Bikaner, accompany candidates for nomination filings

Jaipur, March 27 (IANS) State's top leaders from major political parties were in Rajasthan's Bikaner on Wednesday to address various meetings and participate in the nomination filings of their respective candidates. Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, BJP state president C.P. Joshi and Congress state chief Govind Dotasra were addressing different meetings as Congress and BJP candidates filed nominations. Diya Kumari was in Bikaner for the first time after becoming Deputy Chief Minister. She accompanied Bikaner East MLA Siddhi Kumari for filing nomination. BJP had earlier announced Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma's visit to Bikaner to participate in the nomination filing of Union Minister and sitting MP Arjun Ram Meghwal. However, his plan changed and instead Diya Kumari came to the city. State President C.P. Joshi, who was not expected earlier, but arrived later. After the nomination filing, a meeting in support of Meghwal at Ravindra Theatre will be held. Congress candidate Govindram Meghwal also filed his nomination papers. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot attended Govindram's nomination filing and will also participate in a rally later.

Chaudhary Lal Singh files nomination for Kathua-Udhampur LS seat in J&K

Jammu, March 27 (IANS) Chaudhary Lal Singh of the Congress filed nomination for the Kathua-Udhampur Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday, the last date of filing papers for the constituency. Accompanied by dozens of followers, Chaudhary Lal Singh filed his papers at the DEO in Kathua for the Congress party on Wednesday. Lal Singh recently rejoined the Congress party, and he belongs to Kathua district of this Lok Sabha constituency. He is pitted against Dr. Jitendra Singh of the BJP, who is seeking re-election from the constituency for the third consecutive term. There are eight candidates in the fray in this Lok Sabha constituency, including Dr. Jitendra Singh and Chaudhary Lal Singh. The constituency goes to vote in the first phase on April 19.

BJP's Nagaur candidate Jyoti Mirdha owns assets worth Rs 126 cr, but has no car

Jaipur, March 27 (IANS) BJP candidate from Nagaur in Rajasthan, Jyoti Mirdha has total assets worth Rs 126 crore, but does not own a car. Mirdha has two licensed weapons, one gun and a pistol. She has properties in Jaipur, Gurugram, Mumbai and Nagaur, which include plots, flats and agricultural farms. The details were disclosed in the affidavit submitted by her while filing her nomination papers. She has Rs 1.70 lakh in cash, while her husband has cash worth Rs 1.40 lakh. Jyoti Mirdha's movable assets are less than her husband's. She has movable assets worth Rs 4.23 crore, while her husband has movable assets worth Rs 31.84 crore.

LS polls: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari files nomination from Nagpur seat

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Union Minister and BJP nominee Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday filed his nomination from the Nagpur Lok Sabha seat.

He is pitted against Congress candidate Vikas Thakre.

Gadkari reached the District Collector's office in a chariot amid a large number of party workers and members of NCP, Shiv Sena and RPI.

He was accompanied by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, DCM Devendra Fadnavis, NCP MP Praful Patel and state BJP chief Chandra Shekhar Bawankuke.

Wednesday was the last date for filing the nomination in Nagpur and



four other states from east Vidarbha. BJP has fielded Gadkari for the third time in Nagpur. The city, which is the second capital of Maharashtra, is the headquarters of RSS. Gadkari enjoys strong support from the top leadership of RSS and various associations affiliated with it. Gadkari had won the Nagpur seat as

he polled 66,0221 votes (53.67 per cent) against Congress nominee Nana Patole who got 44,4212 votes (37.45 per cent). In the 2014 general elections, Gadkari defeated former Congress minister Vilas Muttemwar. Gadkari had got 58,7767 votes (54.17 per cent) against 30,2919 (27.92 per cent) by Muttemwar.

ECI notice to Cong's Supriya Shrinete, BJP's Dilip Ghosh for distasteful remarks against women

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday issued a show cause notice to senior Congress leader Supriya Shrinete and the BJP's Dilip Ghosh for their distasteful remarks against women, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress' social media incharge, Supriya Shrinete, in a now deleted post, made disparaging and derogatory remark against actress Kangana Ranaut, who is the BJP's candidate from Mandi, while BJP MP, Dilip Ghosh, made offending remarks against West Bengal Chief



Minister, Mamata Banerjee.

The poll panel found the remarks of both the leaders "undignified and in bad taste." Supriya Shrinete kicked up a storm when she

mocked Kangana Ranaut for bagging the BJP's nomination from Mandi Lok Sabha constituency for the forthcoming elections.

The BJP launched a blistering attack on the

Ahead of LS polls, Upendra Kushwaha seeks blessings from 'elder brother' Nitish Kumar

Patna, March 27 (IANS) Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections starting April 19, the National President of the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), Upendra Kushwaha, met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the state capital on Wednesday.

Uploading his photograph with Nitish Kumar on X, Kushwaha said, "Today, I met with my elder brother CM Nitish Kumar at his residence and took his blessings."

This was the first meeting between the two leaders after Kushwaha separated from the JD-U in February last year.

The meeting sent out a message that Kushwaha and Nitish Kumar are united, and will give a tough contest to the



candidates of the INDIA bloc in the Karakat Lok Sabha constituency and other parts of Bihar.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Kushwaha,

contesting as an RLPSP (Rashtriya Lok Samta Party) candidate, was defeated by JD-U's Mahabali Singh from Karakat.

TN district collector releases 'invitation card' for voters

Chennai, March 27 (IANS) The District Collector in



Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi, who's also the election officer for the district, has issued an invitation card for the voters, urging them to not accept gifts or cash in return for votes. The card released by Sravan Kumar Jatavath is in the form of a traditional wedding invitation, requesting the voters to come to the polling booths and cast their votes in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled on April 19. The card has been printed

on yellow paper, considered to be auspicious, calling the elections a "good occasion". The happy occasion is scheduled in the year of Thiruvalluvar 2055 [the current Tamil year] and the Tamil month of Chithirai [when the elections will be held], on a Friday during the auspicious time between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. The invitation also appeals to the electorate to exercise their franchise without fail. Exchanging gifts during elections is punishable and should be avoided, it says.

K'taka: Congress infighting erupts over Kolar seat nomination

Bengaluru, March 27 (IANS) The infighting within the Congress erupted on Wednesday, with a minister, three MLAs, and two MLCs, including the Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, threatening to submit their resignations to the Chairman of the Council over the allotment of ticket to Kolar seat.

The leaders claimed they were forced to act against the party's decision to allot the Kolar seat ticket to K.G. Chikkapeddanna, son-in-law of Minister for Food K.H. Muniyappa.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar rushed back to Bengaluru and convened a meeting in which they clarified that the ticket was not finalised yet.

Minister for Higher Education, M.C. Sudhakar, MLAs G. Manjunath and K.Y.

Nanje Gowda, MLC and Political Secretary to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Naseer Ahmad, and MLC Anil Kumar said that they would tender their resignations if the ticket was allotted to Chikkapeddanna.

LS polls: Special pink booths to be installed for women voters in Gurugram

Gurugram, March 27 (IANS) Special pink booths will be installed for women voters in Gurugram during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Also, disabled people and elderly voters will be provided with the facility to vote through ballot paper.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav said that pink booths will be installed in the district while respecting women's power.

"Only women employees and women security personnel will be deployed at these booths. These booths will be made so that women also come out of their homes to cast their vote," Yadav said, adding that places are currently being identified for setting up pink booths in the



district. Similarly, for the convenience of senior citizens aged 85 years and above and disabled people, voting will be done through ballot paper. Those elderly and disabled voters who do not want to go to the booth and cast their vote will be given Form 12D from door-to-door after the election notification is issued. This notification will be released on April 29 and the nomination process for the Lok Sabha elections will start from this same

day. DC Kumar said that in Form 12D, the voter will write whether he would like to vote at the booth or through ballot paper. The nomination process will be completed on May 6 and then the forms will be collected from the homes of elderly and disabled voters. Voters who wish to vote from home will be distributed ballot papers and election staff will mark and seal their ballot papers on the same day.

LS polls: Multi-layer security in place along international borders with 8 N-E states

Imphal/Aizawl, March 27 (IANS) A multi-tier security arrangement has been put in place along the 5437-km long international borders with eight northeastern states to foil any cross-border illegal activities before and during the Lok Sabha elections.

Top Army, BSF and Assam Rifles officials are frequently visiting their troops deployed along the international fenced and unfenced bordering areas.

Election and security officials separately said that massive security measures are being taken along the 1,643-km long border with Myanmar, the 1,880-km long border with Bangladesh, the over 1,300-km border with China, the 516-km border with Bhutan, and the 98-km border with Nepal. The Army, Assam Rifles and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) troops are guarding the northeastern states' borders with China and Myanmar while the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are guarding the India-Bangladesh borders with four northeastern states - Assam,



Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

"Our troops are patrolling round-the-clock and stepped up their vigil in view of the Lok Sabha elections to foil any cross-border illegal activities, infiltration, and misadventure during the run-up to the polling," a senior BSF official told IANS refusing to be named.

He said that additional Director General, BSF (Eastern Command), Kolkata, Ravi Gandhi accompanied by other senior officials visited the India-Bangladesh bordering areas last week and earlier this week and held a series of meetings with all concerned and interacted with the jawans posted along the frontiers.

VBA goes solo, Ambedkar names 8 LS candidates, allies with Jarange-Patil

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Rattling the Opposition, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar has virtually snapped ties with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and named 8 out of 9 Lok Sabha candidates, while forming a new front with the Maratha community with the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, here on Wednesday.

Simultaneously, Ambedkar said that the

VBA will support certain candidates of the Congress in the state, offering some solace to the MVA.

The VBA's candidates are: Prakash Y. Ambedkar (Akola), Sanjay G. Kewat (Bhandara-Gondiya LS seat), Hitesh P. Madavi (Gadchiroli-Chimur), Rajesh W. Belle (Chandrapur), Vasant R. Magar (Buldhana), Prajakta T. Pillewan (Amravati), Prof. Rajendra Salunke (Wardha), Khemsing P. Pawar (Yavatmal-Washim),



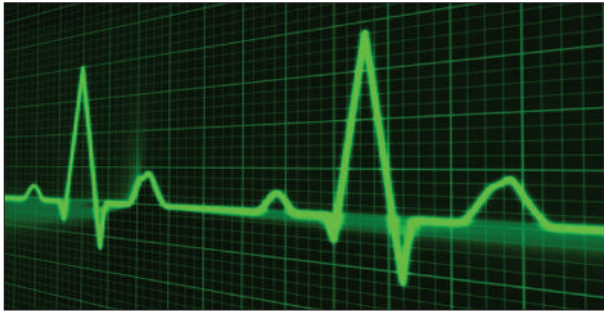
and the nominee for Ramtek shall be announced on late Wednesday. Ambedkar said the VBA will support Congress candidate Vikas Thakre from the Nagpur constituency to take on Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and the OBC Bahujan Party candidate in Sangli.

The VBA Chief added that he had a detailed negotiation with Jarange-Patil on Tuesday and it was decided to nominate OBC and Muslim candidates who

are not being given any nominations by other major parties. Flanked by top VBA leaders like state President Rekha Thakur, Vice-President Siddharth Mokale, D. Pundkar, Farooq Ahmed, Arundhati Sirsat, Ashok Sonone and others, Ambedkar said that a new front with Jarange-Patil will be formed "to initiate the politics of transformation", with maximum candidates from the poor and backward communities, having a clean image.

Health

How precision cardiology with personalised care can help India tackle CVD burden



New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Precision cardiology, which integrates genetics and data science, can offer personalised treatment and help India fight the significant burden of cardiovascular disease, said health experts on Tuesday. The World Health Organization states that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) account for 27 per cent of total deaths in India every year, and 45 per cent of deaths occur in the 40-69 year age group.

"The incidence of heart disease is escalating rapidly due to factors such as sedentary lifestyles, poor dietary habits, tobacco use, excessive alcohol intake, and poor sleep patterns. These behaviours contribute to high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol levels, and the development of diabetes," Dr. Ziad Ali, Director Interventional & Structural Cardiology, St. Francis Hospital and Heart Center, Roslyn, New York, told IANS.

The doctor noted that although preventive steps can be taken, once the condition establishes itself, it necessitates proper management and intervention -- here comes the role of precision cardiology. Precision Cardiology integrates a person's genetics, lifestyle, and environmental exposures to prevent, diagnose, and treat CVDs, the health experts explained. "Precision cardiology is an emerging approach that integrates the latest advancements in molecular biology, genetics, and data science with traditional cardiology to deliver highly personalised care tailored to an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and other unique characteristics," Dr. Ziad said.

"India faces unique challenges due to its high CVD burden combined with a diversity of socio-economic conditions and a large rural population. Precision cardiology can serve as a bridge in this gap by delivering customised care and incorporating advanced techniques that cater to the needs of the individual, despite these challenges," he added. In the individualised approach, interventional cardiologists use advanced imaging and functional techniques to assess the necessity, location, and nature of the intervention.

This majorly includes diagnostic tools like optical coherence tomography (OCT), and fractional flow reserve (FFR), which enable early detection of vulnerable plaque that's at risk of rupturing, the direct mechanism of heart attacks; and also guide the placement and optimisation of stents, to treat blockages before they lead to a heart attack.

These "technologies can flag at-risk patients of heart attacks years before they occur.

Akshay opens up about his career arc, says he likes 'jumping from one genre to another'

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Akshay Kumar, who will be seen in an action avatar in the upcoming film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', revealed he loves to jump from one genre to another as he himself gets bored by doing the same thing.

During the trailer launch of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' in Mumbai on Tuesday, Akshay said: "I don't like to stick to one genre. I like jumping from one genre to another, whether success or not, I have always done that from the beginning of my career and nothing has stopped me. I will keep doing that, something which is social, something which is comedy, something which

is action, I will keep doing different genres." Akshay, who was last seen in 'Mission Raniganj', shared: "Today if people say comedy and action films are in trend, that doesn't mean I should only be doing that. I myself get bored doing one thing."

"That is the reason I have always tried to do something new every time, whether it is 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha', 'Airlift', or 'Rustom'. 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' is one film wherein we have put in a lot of hard work and I am hoping this film is going to bring good luck to all of us," he added.

Presented by Vashu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment in



association with AAZ films, 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' is written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, and produced by Vashu Bhagnani,

Deepshikha Deshmukh, Jackky Bhagnani, Himanshu Kishan Mehra, and Ali Abbas Zafar. The film features Prithviraj Sukumaran in an

intriguing villainous role, along with Tiger Shroff, Sonakshi Sinha, Manushi Chhillar, and Alaya F. The film is set to release in theatres on April 10.

Apple shelves plans to develop displays for smartwatch

San Francisco, March 27 (IANS) Tech giant Apple has reportedly shelved plans to develop display screens for its smartwatch.

According to a Bloomberg report, the tech giant has pulled the plug on an in-house project to build screens with microLED technology.

The iPhone maker is now reportedly "reorganising the teams that handle display engineering," and also "eliminating dozens of roles in the US and Asia".

Apple did not immediately comment on the report.

Ram Charan seeks Lord Venkateswara's blessings at Tirupati with wife on birthday



Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Telugu star Ram Charan, who is known for 'Rangasthalam', 'RRR', 'Magadheera' and others, is celebrating his birthday

on Wednesday. As he gears up for his upcoming projects 'RC 16' and 'RC 17', he sought blessings at Tirupati temple.

The 'RRR' star, who

turned 39, was accompanied by his family to the temple. In the pictures, he can be seen wearing a beige coloured kurta which he paired with white pyjamas. The actor's wife, Upasana wore a pink saree.

Talking about his films, 'RC 16' is helmed by National award-winning director Buchi Babu Sana. The film features music by Oscar and Grammy-winning composer A. R. Rahman.

'RC 17' reunites Ram and Sukumar of 'Pushpa' fame. The two had earlier worked in the Telugu super hit 'Rangasthalam'. He also has the upcoming film 'Game Changer' alongside Kiara Advani in the pipeline. The team recently dropped the first song from the film, 'Jaragandi'.

Shreyas Talpade, Vijay Raaz-starrer 'Kartam Bhugtam' juggles astrology and karma

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) The upcoming multilingual film 'Kartam Bhugtam', which stars Shreyas Talpade, Vijay Raaz, Madhoo and Aksha Pardasany, delves into the human psyche as it juggles ancient universal truths about astrology and karma.

The film's title translates to "what goes around, comes around," encapsulating the essence of its intriguing narrative. The movie explores how every action has its consequences.

Talking about the film, Shreyas Talpade said: "For me, 'Kartam Bhugtam' embodies a universal truth - what goes around, comes around. The mystery lies in the unpredictability of when and how karma unfolds. When I heard the title, I was immediately drawn to the film, confident that its story would be as



unique and compelling as its name." Director Soham P. Shah said: "'Kartam Bhugtam' is a psychological thriller that deals with the intricate workings of

Karma. In a year ruled by the planet Saturn, known as the Lord of Karma, our film explores the profound connection between astrology.

Ranbir Kapoor practises archery, poses with coach for upcoming 'Ramayana' film

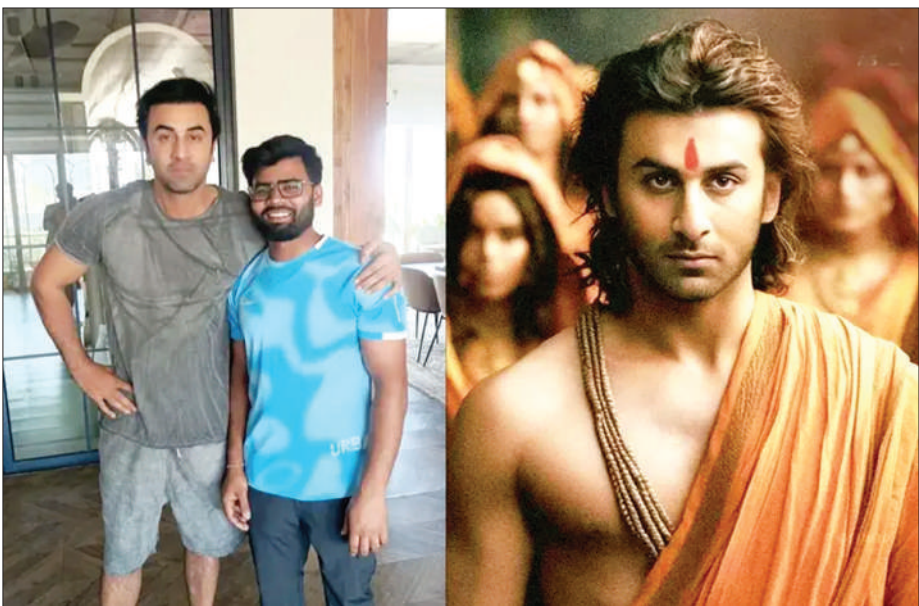
Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Ranbir Kapoor, who is basking in the success of his blockbuster film 'Animal', is currently undergoing training for archery.

Pictures from his meeting with an archery coach have surfaced on social media, and it immediately points to his film 'Ramayana'.

As per the media reports, the film has been in the pre-production for a long time and has witnessed delays given the scale of its production and the casting.

While Ranbir will essay the role of Lord Ram in the film, actress Sai Pallavi will be seen as Sita.

The pictures have been shared on X (formerly called Twitter), by a fan who claimed that the pictures are from Ranbir's prep for 'Ramayana'.



In the pictures, Ranbir can be seen posing with the archery coach, some arrows kept on the table are also visible in one of the pictures.

Ranbir, who is known to undergo thorough preparations for his role, is getting into the groove of the character of Lord Ram.

In another picture that has surfaced online, Ranbir was seen performing a headstand in the gym. The image was posted by his trainer Nam.

Kartik Aaryan endured 14 months of boxing training for 'Chandu Champion'

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who will be soon seen in the upcoming sports drama 'Chandu Champion', underwent boxing training for 14 months for his part in the film. The actor plays a Paralympic gold medalist in the film.

To get into the skin of the character, Kartik followed a strict fitness regime in which he shed 20 kgs and completely gave up on sugar as a part of a tailored diet. The film's canvas is also quite huge as it has been shot across India and the UK. In India, the film has been shot in Wai village of Maharashtra, Kashmir and in the UK it has been shot in London.

This is the first time the actor has stepped into such a physically demanding role, given that it's based on Murlikant Petkar.



'Chandu Champion' is directed by Kabir Khan, who is known for films like 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'New York' and '83'. The film also marks Kartik's reunion with producer Sajid Nadiadwala

after their last successful collaboration over 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'.

Jointly produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan, 'Chandu Champion' is set to arrive in cinemas on June 14, 2024.

NASA's shoebox-sized satellite en route to ISS to decode cosmic blasts

Washington, March 27 (IANS) NASA on Friday launched a shoebox-sized satellite, which aims to unravel the mysteries of cosmic blasts, to the International Space Station (ISS).

The satellite, BurstCube, is enroute to the orbiting lab aboard SpaceX's 30th Commercial Resupply Services mission. It lifted off at 4:55 p.m. EDT on Thursday, March 21 (2:25'am IST, Friday), from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

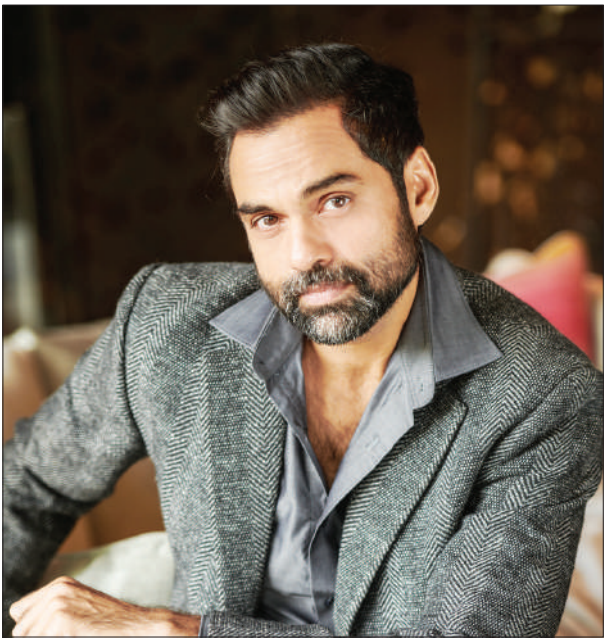
After reaching the ISS, "BurstCube will be unpacked and later released into orbit, where it will detect, locate, and study short gamma-ray bursts -- brief flashes of high-energy light", NASA said in a statement. "BurstCube may be small.

Abhay Deol gains new insights into Peter Gabriel's 'Sledgehammer'

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Bollywood actor Abhay Deol, who is known for 'Dev.D', 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!' and others, is raising the temperature, and his recent social media post has left the ladies swooning. However, for the actor, the post is about discovering a new meaning to the song 'Sledgehammer' by the English singer-songwriter Peter Gabriel.

On Wednesday, the actor took to his Instagram and shared a picture of him drenched in a pool. The actor left his blue shirt unbuttoned as he stares into the camera.

He used the song 'Sledgehammer' as the background for the post, and penned a note describing what the song



means to him. He wrote in the caption: "All these years I didn't realise this song is about

transformation, taking a 'Sledge Hammer' and breaking down the old self to make way for the new. I

kicked the habit (kicked the habit, kicked the habit) Shed my skin (shed my skin) This is the new stuff (this is the new stuff) I go dancing in (we go dancing in) Oh, won't you show for me? (Show for me) I will show for you (show for you) Please' #transformation #song #inspiration (sic)."

Abhay is known for his tongue-in-cheek humour and often makes his followers laugh out loud with his Instagram posts. Earlier, on the 19th anniversary of his film 'Socha Na Tha', he made a hilarious remark about his sideburns in the film.

The actor took to his Instagram and shared the poster of the film featuring him with actress Ayesha Takia. He wrote in the caption: "On this day 19

years ago, I made my debut in the film 'Socha Na Tha'. Still feels like it was only yesterday! It's been quite the learning curve, how innocent and naive we were. Whilst I'm happy that I didn't cave into market demands and package myself into a brand via endorsements and P.R., I do wish I was a bit more savvy. But here I am, 19 years later, still making movies. I cannot be more grateful. And I did become a brand via the film choices I made." The actor added: "I faced the successes and failures of my choices by myself. Following my heart has taught me many valuable lessons. I wouldn't change a thing, because I wouldn't be the man I am today, so comfortable in my skin. Although I do wish I'd got my own stylist.

Kareena aka Jasmine shares BTS pics ahead of 'Crew' release

Mumbai, March 27 (IANS) Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is all geared up for the release of 'Crew' has shared some behind-the-scenes pictures from the set of the movie, amping up the excitement for the fans to watch the film.

The trailer of 'Crew' gives a glimpse of what's about to unfold in the female buddy comedy film as three air hostesses take off on a thrilling journey in a bid to pull off a heist. The film stars Tabu and Kriti Sanon, alongside Kareena.

Taking to Instagram, where 'Bebo' enjoys 12.1 million followers, shared a string of photos, wherein we can see Kareena, who plays Jasmine, is dressed as an air hostess.

There is a sneak peek into her hair styling session and some random selfies from the set of the movie.

The post is captioned as: "Crew-fies #3daystogo".



One fan commented on the post and said: "Can't wait to board". Another said: "can't take my eyes off".

'Current account deficit to moderate below 1 pc of GDP led by growing exports'

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The current account deficit is foreseen to moderate below 1 per cent of GDP led by growing merchandise and service exports coupled with decline in import dependency, says Amnish Aggarwal, Director - Research, Prabhudas Lilladher.

India's current account deficit narrowed to \$10.5 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in Q3 FY24 as compared with \$16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3 FY23 assisted by pick up in global export demand.



The import bill has been controlled by easing global commodity prices including oil amidst stable Rupee. Furthermore, net services receipts and remittances continue to render support to the current account balance. The capital account was helped by buoyant FDI and FPI inflows.

Furthermore, FDI inflows are foreseen to gather pace on the back of recovering growth prospects in investing economies combined with strong economic fundamentals domestically, the analyst said. Looking ahead, India's balance of payment situation is likely to remain stable as resilient domestic tailwinds may outweigh the global headwinds.

Emkay Global Financial Services said the mild sequential moderation in current account deficit (CAD) to \$10.5 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in Q3FY24 reflected offsetting of higher trade deficit with better services exports and private transfers. Q3 CAD funding has been smooth with massive FPI flows and consistently improving banking capital.

Despite slower FDI flows, the rise in capital account surplus (\$17.4 billion) has meant net accretion of \$6 billion. For FY24E, we maintain CAD/GDP at 0.8 per cent, led by incrementally improving goods trade deficit and solid services trade surplus, the brokerage said.

HPCL, Tata Motors ink pact to set up EV charging stations

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) The electric mobility unit of Tata Motors Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding to set up EV charging stations across India.

The collaboration will leverage HPCL's network of 21,500 fuel outlets across India to set up public charging stations at locations frequented by 1.2 lakh Tata Motors electric cars on the road, according to a joint statement issued by the two companies.

Tata Motors and HPCL are also exploring a new payment system - a co-branded RFID card - for a hassle-free charging experience.



Furthermore, HPCL aims to install 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations by December 2024, HPCL has also installed a total of 3,050 EV charging stations, including battery swapping stations, across the country, the oil major said.

Morgan Stanley raises India's GDP growth estimate to 6.8 pc for 2025



New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Global brokerage Morgan Stanley has raised India's GDP growth expectation to 6.8 per cent in 2025 from 6.5 per cent on continued traction in industrial and capex activity.

"We raise GDP growth to 6.8 per cent YoY in F2025, a rise of 30bps from our earlier estimate of 6.5 per cent, on continued traction in industrial and capex activity. On CY basis, we expect growth at 6.8 per cent YoY for 2024, from 6.4 per cent earlier", it said.

"We expect GDP growth to track at around 7 per cent in QE March-2024 with GVA growth of 6.3 per cent and thus F2024 GDP growth of 7.9 per cent," Morgan Stanley said.

The brokerage expects growth to be broad-based and the gaps between rural-

urban consumption and private-public capex to narrow in F2025.

The cycle will have more years of steady expansion driven by improvement in productivity growth, which will ensure macro stability remains benign, it said.

Moderating inflation trajectory and benign current account deficit opens up room for a shallow easing cycle as we have been highlighting. However, the brokerage expects the easing cycle to be delayed to 3Q24 from our earlier view of 2Q24. "Further, we highlight risks of a potential delay and/or risk of not easing driven by better-than-expected trend in growth, capex and productivity, which will imply higher neutral real rates," Morgan Stanley said.

Domestic demand growth has been steadfast and is a key driver of the constructive outlook for the economy. Consumption accounts for 60.3 per cent of GDP and is the mainstay of the domestic demand story. While private consumption has recovered over the last four quarters, with growth tracking at 3.5 per cent in QE December-2023 vs. 1.8 per cent in December-2022, the trend in private consumption is just catching up to the pre-pandemic trend, Morgan Stanley said.

(Sanjeev Sharma can be reached at Sanjeev.s@ians.in)

4th edition of Grand Shopsy Mela witnesses significant increase in new customers and seller growth

Medinipur/Durgapur, March 27 : Flipkart's Shopsy, India's fastest-growing e-commerce platform, concluded its fourth edition of The Grand Shopsy Mela from 12-17 March, offering over 16 crore+ products with free delivery and great prices. This is the 4th edition of Grand Shopsy Mela and it clocked more than 2x surge in daily demand and new customers. Shopsy's largest shopping festival of the year experienced a 2x spike in customers and orders, with T-shirts, Saree, Bedsheets, and Kurtis being most in demand, and seller growth also increased. Catering to the remotest regions of the country, Shopsy witnessed increased customer demand in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets such as Cuttack, Guwahati, Gorakhpur, and Mysore which emerged as key contributors. The Grand Shopsy Mela, a successful campaign, saw a 1.4X surge in users, with 41% being first-time shoppers. Over 60% of customers were from Tier 3+ cities, with top customers from Tier 2+ cities shopping for Choppers, Kids Clothing, Earbuds, and Fashion wearables. Men and women shopped for T-shirts, shoes, Kurtis, Sarees, and earrings. The event was one of Shopsy's most successful campaigns. Kapil Thirani, Head of Shopsy, Flipkart said, "As we march forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing accessibility and choice for our customers, while ensuring the great prices through events like Grand Shopsy Mela."

Top S. Korean game developer joins Google Cloud on AI, cloud computing

Seoul, March 27 (IANS) NCSOFT Corporation, a major South Korean online and mobile game developer, said on Wednesday that it has joined hands with Google Cloud in improving artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing capabilities.

In a meeting at the Google headquarters in the United States, the two companies discussed ways to apply AI and cloud technologies in game development and develop a platform to create a gaming ecosystem, reports Yonhap news agency.

NCSOFT said it also plans to upgrade its generative AI language model, VARCO, by utilising Google Cloud's Vertex AI, a machine learning platform that offers access to Google's next-generation LLM Gemini.

"To create a fresh gaming experience for our global users, we will collaborate with Google Cloud to form an ecosystem," NCSOFT CEO Kim Taek-jin said.



Adani Green's solar power plant to produce 540 mn units annually operationalised in Rajasthan



Ahmedabad, March 27 (IANS) Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) on Wednesday said it has commissioned a 180 MW solar power plant at Devikot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The plant will produce approximately 540 million electricity units annually, powering over 1.1 lakh homes and reducing around 0.39 million tonnes of CO2 emissions, the company said in a statement.

The plant has a 25-year power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

With the successful commissioning of this plant, AGEL's operational solar portfolio has increased to 6,243 MW, and the total operational renewable generation capacity to 9,784 MW, the largest in the country.

According to the company, next-generation bifacial solar PV modules and horizontal single axis solar trackers (HSAT) have been deployed to maximise generation through better efficiency of modules and tracking the sun throughout the day.

The plant is equipped with waterless robotic module cleaning systems, enabling water conservation in the barren region of Jaisalmer, the company informed.

The Energy Network Operation Centre (ENOC), anchored in the secured digital cloud platform, enables real-time monitoring of AGEL's renewable energy assets, leading to enhanced operational performance.

'Flows have slowed down considerably in small and mid-cap funds'

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Flows have slowed down considerably in small and mid-cap funds but other categories have seen an uptick in flows, Kotak Institutional Equities said.

"Our analysis of daily flows in March (up to 21st) across large categories has a few takeaways -- small-cap category has seen net outflows while mid-cap funds have seen positive but lower flows," it said.

Categories such as large-cap, flexi cap, hybrid funds have seen uptick in flows suggesting a possible shift in preferences, the brokerage said. Stock price performance for AMC stocks has been strong overall but quite divergent across AMCs with HDFC AMC (+110 per cent in 1Y) and Nippon (+110 per cent) outperforming ABSL (+46 per cent).

Most unicorns globally have 'underdog' founders

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) A global study of 845 unicorns and more than 2,000 tech leaders has revealed that most companies with a valuation \$1 billion and above have "underdog" founders and female entrepreneurs are on the rise.

The study, titled "Unicorn Founder DNA Report" by Defiance Capital found that 70 per cent of unicorns have "underdog founders" (like immigrants, women and people of colour).

According to a TechCrunch report on Wednesday, unicorns used to earlier have only male founders "but this is changing with 17 per cent having a female founder in 2023".

About half of them (53 per cent) have earned degrees from the top 10 global universities and 49 per cent of unicorn CEOs had STEM degrees, the findings showed.

The study also revealed that unicorns were dominated by white founders, but that every third unicorn had an Asian founder.

Several unicorn founders were forced to develop a growth mindset, "with values, work ethic, and ambitions all established during childhood".

Meanwhile, India is now home to more than 8,000 startups that have women founders with a cumulative funding of nearly \$23 billion to date, according to the latest report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform.



Thums Up launches TOOFAN : Fliescricket fans on an exclusive chartered plane & Toofani tour of the ICC T20 Men's World Cup

New Delhi/Jamshedpur, March 27 : Thums Up, India's homegrown beverage brand from The Coca-Cola Company, is thrilled to launch Toofan: the Thums up branded exclusive chartered plane as part of its latest campaign, 'World Cup ka Toofani Tour' to the ICC T20 World Cup. As the official beverage partner of ICC T20 World Cup, Thums Up continues to redefine fan engagement, setting new benchmarks for fan experiences in the realm of sports. This year, Thums Up is taking cricket enthusiasts on a once in a lifetime adventure to West Indies on an exclusive Thums Up plane, promising an electrifying experience like never before.

The campaign features India's loved Cricket-duo: Yuvraj Singh and Virender Sehwag, encouraging consumers to scan a Thums



up pack and get a chance to win a seat on Toofan. From 01st March to 30th April, consumers can stand a chance to win a trip to the ICC T20 World Cup in the West Indies by registering at <https://tu-icc24.coke2-home.com/Available> behind select Thums Up packs that earn miles, consumers can win a chance to enter a 2 month long daily lucky draw, with one seat being given away everyday. In pursuit to further build on its long-standing association with sporting events like Olympics, Paralympics, ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, the tour represents the brand's dedication to championing the spirit of cricket. Alongside the Toofani tour, Thums Up will engage fans cheering for Team India at home by giving away Indian jerseys every hour, plus other exciting prizes. The campaign will be featured prominently on all packs sized 500ml and above, offering meticulously curated experiences beyond live cricket action.

Manish Prasad appointed President and Managing Director for SAP Indian Subcontinent

Mumbai/Jamshedpur, March 27: SAP today announced the appointment of Manish Prasad as President and Managing Director for SAP Indian Subcontinent. He succeeds Kulmeet Bawa, who takes on a global role to drive the growth and adoption of SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) for customers worldwide. A technology veteran and seasoned business leader at SAP, Manish has been responsible for delivering strategic and impactful outcomes for some of India's leading organizations across metals, mining, and automotive industries. With a career spanning over two decades, he has experience building and managing global and regional businesses across multiple geographies including North America, Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Commenting on the announcement, Paul Marriott, President, SAP Asia Pacific Japan said, "India is one of the fastest-growing markets for SAP in the region and globally, and a strategically important hub for innovation and growth. I am excited to welcome Manish, and I'm confident that his deep understanding of the market, our technology, and people will usher in the next phase of growth in India. I thank Kulmeet Bawa for his outstanding contribution over the last three years, delivering continued success and growth for SAP India, and I look forward to working with him to help accelerate the value our customers gain from SAP BTP."



SK hynix expects significant increase in sales of high-end chips

Seoul, March 27 (IANS) SK hynix, the world's second-largest memory chipmaker, said on Wednesday that it expects a significant increase in the portion of its high bandwidth memory (HBM) chip sales relative to total DRAM (dynamic random-access memory) chip sales.

"Last year, sales of HBM chips accounted for a single-digit percent of the company's entire DRAM sales," CEO Kwak Noh-jung said during a general shareholders meeting. "This year, the number of bits of HBM sales will rise to a double-digit percentage of total DRAM sales, which will help our profitability."

HBM chips, integral components used for AI computing, have garnered increasing attention with the rise of applications such as generative AI, exemplified by models like ChatGPT, reports Yonhap news agency.

SK hynix is considered a leader in the HBM industry as it has begun mass



production of the latest fifth-generation HBM3E chips. These chips are slated for supply to U.S. AI chip giant Nvidia, solidifying SK hynix's role as a key supplier in the AI computing ecosystem. Kwak stressed that his company will make constant efforts to keep the market leadership by strengthening competitiveness of its HBM products. Regarding recent media reports suggesting SK hynix's plans to build an advanced chip packaging facility in Indiana, Kwak clarified that nothing has been confirmed yet, indicating that the company is still in the process of evaluating its options.

Blue Planet acquires Vac-Tech Engineering to boost hazardous waste management

New Delhi, March 27 (IANS) Sustainable waste management solutions provider Blue Planet on Wednesday announced the acquisition of Vac-Tech Engineering for an undisclosed sum.

Blue Planet said in a statement that this acquisition will strengthen its technology in hazardous waste management and transportation, thereby fortifying its mission to provide technology-driven solutions for waste management and upcycling.

"This partnership is an essential addition to our business and contributes in advocating our circular economy objectives. Vac-Tech's expertise in



handling hazardous waste complements Blue Planet's objective of reaching zero waste levels sent to landfills," said Madhujet

Chimni, Founder and Chairman. Vac-Tech's 'Squize-tech' dewatering systems and centrifuge treatment

systems are "revolutionising hazardous waste management, providing efficient and sustainable solutions to

environmental challenges". "Our commitment lies in providing the best hazardous waste management solutions to achieve objectives while upholding stringent safety and environmental standards. We are proud to join forces with Blue Planet to further our shared vision of sustainable waste management," said Mark Lee, CEO of Vac-Tech Engineering. Additionally, its hazardous waste transportation services, including vacuum truck services and pump rental services, further enhance its capabilities in managing and handling hazardous materials safely and responsibly.

Team led by DC inspects strong room for LS election preparedness

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal undertook an inspection at the Cooperative College to assess the readiness for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections of 2024. The visit aimed to ensure adherence to Election Commission guidelines and the efficient functioning of the electoral process. During the inspection, Mittal meticulously reviewed various aspects essential for the smooth conduct of elections. These included assessing the arrangements at the dispatch center, election material management, and the setup of designated strong rooms and counting rooms for the polling party. Special attention was paid to critical areas such as the counting room, the entry protocol for party agents, and the secure depositing of Electronic Voting Machines

Arms holders asked for weapon verification

Jamshedpur, March 27: Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, has issued directives for the verification of weapons belonging to all arms license holders in the district. The initiative aims to ensure a peaceful and fair conduct of the Lok Sabha elections, emphasizing the importance of maintaining transparency and security during the electoral process. In accordance with the instructions from Mittal, a comprehensive verification process for all arms license holders has been scheduled at the police station level. This measure seeks to ascertain the authenticity and legality of weapons owned by individuals within the district boundaries, fostering an environment conducive to independent and fair elections. All arms license holders residing in East Singhbhum district are required to present their licensed weapons for verification at their respective police stations from March 28th to March 30th, 2024. It is imperative that individuals comply with this directive to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. Additionally, individuals holding arms licenses issued from other states or districts but currently residing in East Singhbhum district are also urged to participate in the verification process. Failure to comply with the stipulated verification dates may result in the confiscation of weapons by the magistrate or law enforcement officials, with subsequent legal actions taken in accordance with established regulations. (W/pb)

(EVMs) in the designated strong rooms after voting. Additionally, discussions were held with senior



officials to iron out any logistical challenges and ensure seamless arrangements for the electoral process. It was decided that Cooperative College would serve as the dispatch center for Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, and Jugsalai assembly constituencies, while LBSM College, Karandih, would cater to the Potka, Ghatsila, and Baharagora polling parties. Furthermore, Cooperative College was designated as the receiving center for all

assembly constituencies, with plans for the counting of votes and the setup of strong rooms within its premises. The DC emphasized the importance of adhering to Election Commission norms both in letter and spirit. He directed concerned officials to ensure smooth transportation of EVM machines and reviewed security arrangements to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. The inspection witnessed the presence of key officials including the SDO,

Additional District Magistrate, Deputy Election Officer, District Public Relations Officer, and other personnel, signifying the collective effort towards ensuring a fair and transparent election process. The inspection conducted by Mittal at Cooperative College underscores the administration's commitment to conducting Lok Sabha Elections with utmost efficiency and adherence to electoral protocols. The directives issued during the visit are

Meeting on Postal Ballot Voting for Lok Sabha Elections

Jamshedpur, March 27: District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal convened a meeting in Jamshedpur to discuss voting through postal ballot, aiming to achieve 100 percent participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024. The meeting focused on familiarizing officials with Election Commission guidelines on postal ballot voting. Officials were briefed on the procedures outlined for personnel categorized under Essential Services to ensure their participation in the electoral process. This category encompasses various vital sectors such as electricity, telecommunications, transportation, healthcare, and media. Mittal emphasized the importance of compiling a comprehensive list of Essential Services personnel eligible for postal ballot voting. Officers and employees scheduled for duty on election day were instructed to utilize postal ballots to exercise their franchise, facilitated through Form 12D issued by the Returning Officer. Postal ballot voting is scheduled to take place from May 20 to May 22, providing eligible individuals an opportunity to cast their votes. Mittal urged office heads within Essential Services to verify their employees' inclusion in the voter list and facilitate registration for those not yet listed. The meeting, attended by officials from Essential Service sectors including SOR, District Supply Officer, Deputy Election Officer, and District Public Relations Officer, underscored the commitment to ensure inclusive and accessible voting procedures for all eligible individuals.

expected to contribute to the electoral process in the the seamless execution of Jamshedpur region. (W/pb)

Two drug dealers apprehended in Ulidih, pistol and narcotics seized



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: In a successful operation, the police have apprehended two individuals engaged in illegal drug trade from the Ulidih police station area of Mango, Jamshedpur. During the arrest, authorities confiscated 370 grams of ganja and 1.45 grams of brown sugar from the suspects.

Additionally, a country-made pistol along with ammunition was also seized from their possession. The arrested individuals have been identified as Suraj Kuntiya, a resident of Tribal Club Bada Light Ulidih, and another individual residing on Sagar Majumdar Sharma Line Shiv Mandir Road Ulidih. Both suspects are natives of the Ulidih police station area.

Acting on a tip-off received by Jamshedpur's SSP Kishore Kaushal regarding the alleged smuggling of brown sugar near the tribal club Bada Light, police conducted a swift raid leading to the apprehension of the two suspects. However, it is reported that one youth managed to evade capture and is currently being pursued by law enforcement personnel. (w/nkm)

Murder accused acquitted

Jamshedpur, March 27: The court of ADJ-2 Abhash Verma acquitted Pradeep Bahadur Thapa, the accused in the Sulochana Bahadur murder case, citing insufficient evidence. Sulochana Bahadur, a resident of Poradih village in the Kowali police station area, was allegedly murdered on November 30, 2018. The accused had been in jail since December 1, 2018, awaiting trial. The court heard testimonies from seven witnesses in the case, ultimately granting the benefit of doubt to the accused. It may be mentioned that the incident came to light when village head Gopal Puran lodged an FIR against Pradeep Bahadur Thapa at Kowali police station, stating that he witnessed the accused beating his mother. Puran claimed to have found Sulochana bleeding from her head when he arrived at the scene. According to Puran, Pradeep Bahadur Thapa had a history of assaulting his mother, allegedly fueled by demands for money to purchase alcohol. However, despite these allegations, the court ruled in favor of the accused due to a lack of concrete evidence. (w/gsd)

Bullet Rani's Sankalp Yatra for Modi's third term gains momentum in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: In a fervent display of support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-election bid, Rajlakshmi Manda, popularly known as Bullet Rani, arrived in Jamshedpur amidst cheers and warm greetings from Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) workers. Riding on her bullet bike, Manda embarked on a remarkable 21,000-kilometer journey from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, with a resolute aim to see Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term. Received by BJYM Jamshedpur Mahanagar District President, Amit Aggarwal, along with hundreds of enthusiastic workers, Manda was welcomed with flower bouquets and cheers. A grand program was organized in front of Sonari Airport, where BJYM workers from various divisions commended Manda's courageous campaign and extended their best wishes. Amidst drum beats, a spirited bike rally was led



by Manda, accompanied by excited youth workers, as they set off towards their destination, chanting slogans in support of Modi. Having already traversed through Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, Manda's journey has garnered attention and support across the nation. Setting a world record by pulling a 9.5-tonne truck, Manda's determination reflects her commitment to the cause. Addressing journalists, Manda emphasized the importance of choosing the best leader for India's development and the well-being of future generations. Inspired by PM Modi's policies and principles, Manda reiterated her non-partisan stance while undertaking

the 'Sankalp Yatra', a public awareness campaign aimed at securing Modi's third term. Expressing confidence in Modi's leadership, Manda highlighted his vision for a developed and strong India, rallying for widespread support from the people. With the journey set to conclude in Delhi on April 18th, Manda remains optimistic about the overwhelming support her campaign has received nationwide. The event saw the presence of key BJYM leaders, including District President Amit Aggarwal and District General Secretary Abhimanyu Singh Chauhan, along with numerous dedicated workers, underscoring the widespread enthusiasm for Modi's leadership. (w/nkm)

Youth missing since a month found dead, murder suspected

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: The decomposed body of a youth was discovered hanging in Rohinibera forest under Potka police station in East Singhbhum district, sparking suspicions of foul play. Local villagers alerted the policeman who arrived at the spot. The body was subsequently removed from the noose and placed in the mortuary for post-mortem examination. Identified as 18-year-old Somnath Karmakar from Potka Rajdoha, the deceased's family members expressed concerns over his sudden disappearance. Somnath, a student at Golmuri ABM College, had been residing at his maternal uncle's house in Hurlung, Birsanagar. He had been missing for a month, prompting frantic searches by his relatives. Upon discovery of the body, on discovery of the body, Somnath's family members suspected foul play. They speculated that a past dispute involving a girl from his college might have led to his murder and subsequent hanging. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter to ascertain the circumstances surrounding Somnath's death. (w/gsd)



Food delivery boy assaulted and robbed in Tinplate

Jamshedpur, March 27: Late on Tuesday night, Dheeraj Kumar Singh, a food delivery man, fell victim to assault and robbery near Tinplate roundabout under Golmuri police station. Severely injured, Dheeraj managed to reach his home in Kitadih, Parsudihi, from where his family rushed him to MGM Hospital. Due to the severity of his injuries, he was subsequently referred to TMH, where he is currently receiving treatment in the HDU ward. Reports indicate that Dheeraj was en route to Telco for a delivery when a group of youths intercepted him near Tinplate Chowk. They attacked him with a rod, leaving him injured and unconscious. The assailants also robbed Dheeraj of his mobile phone, food, and cash before fleeing the scene, leaving the victim on the road. Upon regaining consciousness, Dheeraj managed to return home on a bike and promptly informed his family of the incident. He is now recuperating at TMH Hospital, where his condition remains serious. (w/gsd)



Loyola School organises Nursery & LKG Orientation 2024-2025

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: Loyola School, known for its commitment to holistic education, welcomed parents and guardians to its Nursery & LKG Orientation Programme for the academic year 2024-2025. Held at the Fasy Auditorium, the event aimed to acquaint new parents with the ethos, values, and educational approach of Loyola School. The orientation commenced with a warm welcome extended to parents by Tr. Sherry Rosario, the Foundational Stage Team Leader, setting a positive tone for the event. Fr. Vinod Fernandes, the Principal, delivered an insightful address emphasizing the vital role of parents in shaping young minds. He provided an overview of the school's legacy, values, and safety



measures, fostering confidence and trust among parents. Parents were treated to a virtual tour of the school through a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, showcasing the vibrant and innovative learning environment at Loyola. Vineeta Ekka, the Vice Principal (Junior Section), offered

valuable guidance to parents on helping their children transition smoothly into school life. She introduced the Class and Subject Teachers, facilitating a sense of familiarity and support. The orientation included a captivating dance performance by students of Loyola Junior Section, adding a

touch of joy and celebration to the event. An open forum provided an opportunity for parents to interact with the management and teachers, fostering communication and collaboration.

The programme concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, symbolizing unity and patriotism, and marking the beginning of a promising journey for parents and students alike. The Nursery & LKG Orientation Programme at Loyola School served as a platform for building strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and the school community. With a focus on holistic education and nurturing young minds, Loyola School is poised to embark on a successful academic year, guided by its commitment to excellence and inclusivity. (W/pb)

Firing and assault on Marine Drive

Jamshedpur, March 27: Late on Tuesday night, an altercation ensued near Bagicha restaurant on Marine Drive under Kadma police station, allegedly involving Vicky Nandi, a resident of Adityapur, and his associates. According to witnesses, Nandi and his group assaulted a local youth before he fired in the air from his pistol. Prompted by the incident, Kadma police initiated an investigation. While police confirmed the altercation, they were unable to verify the reported gunfire. Sources suggest that the altercation erupted around 10:30 pm when Nandi and his associates confronted a group of youths sitting on the beach divider.

Elderly Man crushed to death by elephant

Mail News Service

Gurabanda, March 27: Dhirai Murmu (64), a resident of PokhariaJoteyashol in the Jharpokharia police station area of Odisha, was crushed to death by a wild elephant in Mutkamkocho Block on Tuesday evening. According to reports, Dhiraiwas visiting relatives in Mutkamkocho when the incident occurred. While on his way to the pond, Murmu was attacked by the elephant. Despite efforts by bystanders to scare away the animal, Murmu sustained serious injuries. However, due to poor road conditions, an ambulance attempting to transport him to the hospital had to turn back from about two kilometers away. Murmu succumbed to his injuries at home four hours after the attack. The forest department was promptly notified, and officials arrived at the scene the following morning. The body



has been sent for postmortem examination. Meanwhile, the family of the deceased received an initial compensation of Rs 25,000, with assurances from forest department personnel that a total compensation of Rs 4 lakh would be provided. Various officials, including members of the Forest and Environment Protection Committee and local police authorities, were present at the scene to supervise the situation. (w/gsd)

Jeevan spearheads Mental Health Awareness in Mukhi Samaj

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 27: In a proactive endeavour to address mental health concerns and provide vital emotional support, Jeevan Suicide Prevention Centre in Jamshedpur organised an awareness programme at the Mukhi Social Welfare Center, near Tata Football Academy. This initiative was conducted at the behest of Saikat Mukherjee from the Help Foundation, aiming to empower the Mukhi community with essential knowledge and resources. The awareness programme focused on equipping participants with



crucial information on stress management techniques, recognising symptoms of depression, and extending support to individuals in need. Attendees were sensitized on the importance of

mental well-being and the significance of timely intervention in crisis situations. Techniques for staying stress-free during challenging times were discussed. Participants were educated on

identifying symptoms of depression in themselves and others. Strategies for providing support to individuals grappling with mental health challenges were emphasized. Attendees at the event pledged to prioritize mental well-being and vowed to seek emotional support in times of crisis. They also committed to extending assistance to those in distress before taking any drastic actions. As a tangible symbol of their commitment, plans were announced to install Jeevan board within the center, serving as a reminder of the collective responsibility

towards mental health. For organisations interested in arranging similar workshops in their respective areas, please contact Jeevan for further assistance. For individuals experiencing mental health problems or in need of emotional support, Jeevan offers a lifeline of support available from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, 365 days a year. Confidentiality is guaranteed, ensuring a safe space for individuals to seek help without fear of judgment or stigma. Helpline Number: 9297777499 / 9297777500. (W/pb)