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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Polish man arrested over alleged Russian plot to kill Ukraine's Zelenskyy

World . A Polish man has been arrested on allegations of being ready to spy on behalf of Russia's military intelligence in an alleged plot to assassinate Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Polish prosecutors said Thursday. The office of Poland's National Prosecutor said in a statement that the man, identified only as Pawel K. under Polish privacy laws, was accused of being prepared to pass airport security information to Russian agents and that he was arrested in Poland on Wednesday. The man was seeking contact with Russians directly involved in the war in Ukraine and was expected to pass on detailed information about the Rzeszow-Jasionka airport in south-eastern Poland, near the border with Ukraine, which is the gateway for international military and humanitarian supplies for Ukraine. It also serves leaders and politicians traveling in and out of Ukraine. The airport is under the control of US troops. If convicted, the man could face up to eight years in prison, the statement said.

The prosecutors said the arrest is the result of close cooperation with the prosecutors and security services of Ukraine, who tipped them off and who provided crucial evidence. The case is developing, they said.

In Germany on Thursday, prosecutors said that two German-Russian men have been arrested on suspicion of espionage, one of them accused of agreeing to carry out attacks on potential targets including US military facilities in hopes of sabotaging aid for Ukraine. The two, identified only as Dieter S. and Alexander J. in line with German privacy rules, were arrested Wednesday in the Bavarian city of Bayreuth, Germany's federal prosecutors said. A number of people, including a dual Russian-Spanish citizen have been arrested in Poland on allegations of spying for Russia since Moscow launched its attack on Ukraine in February 2022.

European Union member Poland has been a staunch supporter of neighboring Ukraine and Zelenskyy in fending off Russia's aggression of more than two years.

Two killed in suicide blast attack in Pakistan: Report

World At least two people were killed in a suicide blast attack in Pakistan's Karachi on Friday that struck a vehicle in which foreign nationals were travelling, broadcaster Geo News reported. Five Japanese nationals were in the van when it was attacked in Pakistan's Sindh province. Two terrorists, including the suicide bomber, were killed while all five foreigners in the vehicle survived the attack, the report stated. Police said that the van was targeted by the terrorists who were on a bike. Gunfire sounds were also heard. A bag filled with grenades and Kalashnikov was found at the crime scene, they added. All five Japanese remained safe. However, the private security guard with them was injured. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) East Azfar Mahesar was quoted by PTI as saying, "The Japanese nationals were on the way to the Export Processing Zone from their residence in Zamzama, Clifton," he said.

"A suicide jacket and a grenade are tied to the terrorist's body," police said, adding that a bomb disposal team reached the attack site.

US vetoes resolution seeking full United Nations membership for Palestine

New York .The United States on Thursday effectively stopped the United Nations from recognizing a Palestinian state by casting a veto in the Security Council to deny Palestinians full membership of the world body.

It vetoed a draft resolution that recommended to the 193-member UN General Assembly that "the State of Palestine be admitted to membership" of the UN. Britain and Switzerland abstained, while the remaining 12 council members voted yes.

"The United States continues to strongly support a two-state solution. This vote does not reflect opposition to Palestinian statehood, but instead is an acknowledgment that it will only come from direct negotiations between the parties," Deputy US Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood told the council. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the US veto in a statement as "unfair, unethical, and unjustified." Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour, at times emotional, told the council after the vote: "The fact that this resolution did not pass will not break our will and it will not defeat our determination. We will not stop in our effort." The Palestinian push for full UN membership came six months into a war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and as Israel is expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the UN considers to be illegal. Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz commended the United States for casting a veto.

Addressing the 12 council members who voted in favor of the draft resolution, Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan said: "It's very sad because your vote will only embolden Palestinian rejectionism even more and make peace almost impossible." The Palestinians are currently a non-member observer state, a de facto recognition of statehood that was granted by the UN General Assembly in 2012. But an application to become a full UN member needs to be approved by the Security Council and then at least two-thirds of the General Assembly. "We believe that such recognition of Palestinian statehood should not come at the start of a new process, but it doesn't have to be at the very end of the process. We must start with fixing the immediate crisis in Gaza," Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward told the council.

The UN Security Council has long endorsed a vision of two states living side by side within secure and recognized borders. Palestinians want a state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, all territory captured by Israel in 1967. Algeria's UN Ambassador Amar Bendjama argued before the vote that admitting Palestinians to the United Nations would strengthen rather than undermine the two-state solution, adding: "Peace will come from Palestine's inclusion, not from its exclusion."

US committee releases sealed Brazil court orders to suspend X accounts

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil A US congressional committee released confidential Brazilian court orders to suspend accounts on the social media platform X, offering a glimpse into decisions that have spurred complaints of alleged censorship from the company and its billionaire owner Elon Musk. The Republican-controlled House Judiciary Committee late Wednesday published a staff report disclosing dozens of decisions by Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordering X to suspend or remove around 150 user profiles from its platform in recent years. To comply with its obligations under US law, X Corp. has responded to the Committee," the company said in a statement on X on April 15. The disclosure comes amid a battle Musk has waged against de Moraes. Musk, a self-proclaimed free-speech absolutist, had vowed to publish de Moraes' orders, which he equated to censorship. His crusade has been cheered on by supporters of far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro, who allege they are being targeted by political persecution, and have found common cause with their ideological allies in the US. De Moraes has

overseen a five-year probe of so-called "digital militias," who allegedly spread defamatory fake news and threats to Supreme Court justices. The investigation expanded to include those inciting demonstrations across the country, seeking to overturn Bolsonaro's 2022 election loss. Those protests culminated in the Jan. 8 uprising in Brazil's capital, with Bolsonaro supporters storming government buildings, including the Supreme Court, in an attempt to oust President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from office. De Moraes' critics claim he has abused his powers and shouldn't be allowed to unilaterally ban social media accounts, including those of democratically elected legislators. But most legal experts see his brash tactics as legally sound and furthermore justified by extraordinary circumstances of democracy imperiled. They note his decisions have been either upheld by his fellow justices or gone unchallenged. The secret orders, disclosed by the congressional committee had been issued both by Brazil's Supreme Court and its top electoral court, over which de Moraes currently presides. The press office of the Supreme Court declined to comment on

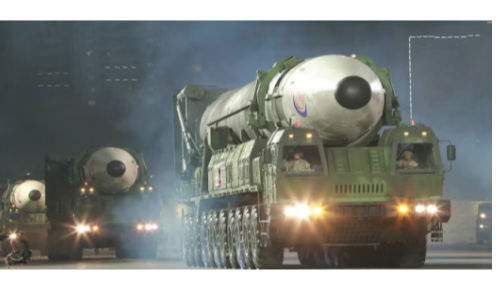


the potential ramifications of their release when contacted by The Associated Press. "Musk is indeed a very innovative businessman; he innovated with electric cars, he innovated with rockets and now he invented a new form of non-compliance of a court order, through an intermediary," said Carlos Affonso, director of the nonprofit Institute of Technology and Society. "He said he would reveal the documents and he found someone to do this for him." Affonso, also a professor of civil rights at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said that the orders are legal but do merit debate, given users were not informed why their accounts were suspended and whether the

action was taken by the platform or at the behest of a court. The orders to X included in the report rarely provide justification, either. The Supreme Court's press office said in a statement Thursday afternoon that the orders do not contain justifications, but said the company and people with suspended accounts can gain access by requesting the decisions from the court. While Musk has repeatedly decried de Moraes' orders as suppressing "free speech" principles and amounting to "aggressive censorship," the company under his ownership has bowed to government requests from around the world. Last year, for instance, X blocked posts critical of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and, in February, it blocked accounts and posts in India at the behest of the country's government. "The Indian government has issued executive orders requiring X to act on specific accounts and posts, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment," X's global affairs account posted on Feb. 21. "In compliance with the orders, we will withhold these accounts and posts in India alone; however, we disagree with these actions and.

US to introduce new sanctions regime to monitor North Korea's nuke programme

Washington DC. The US ambassador to the United Nations said on Friday that she hoped to find a new way to ensure sanctions enforcement on North Korea by next month after Russia and China thwarted the renewal of monitoring activities.



Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Washington and its allies were looking at multiple options both inside and outside the UN to replace a panel of experts that has over the past 15 years monitored the implementation of sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes. Russia rejected the annual renewal of the panel last month, while China abstained from the

vote. Asked whether the US and its allies could establish an alternative by the time the current panel's mandate expires at the end of April, Thomas-Greenfield told reporters in Tokyo, "That would be the optimal thing to start next month. I don't know that we will move it that fast. But that's my

hope." "We are working to do something in the (UN) General Assembly. We are pushing the (UN) Secretariat through the Secretary-General to do something out of his office, but we are also looking at options outside of the UN," she said, adding that those could be under the auspices of the G7, or with think tanks or research entities.

Thomas-Greenfield said the US and its partners who were pushing for a new monitoring regime may look at having several teams replace the work of the existing panel. "There may be not just one option. It may be looking at two or three different options that will get us the information that we need," she said.

Trump loses bid to halt US Capital riot civil lawsuits amid criminal charges

World Donald Trump lost a bid on Thursday to pause a string of lawsuits accusing him of inciting the US Capitol attack, while the former president fights his 2020 election interference criminal case in Washington.

dozens of police officers injured, arguing that his words during a rally before the storming of the Capitol addressed "matters of public concern" and fell within the scope of absolute presidential immunity.



US District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington denied defense lawyers' request to put the civil cases seeking to hold Trump responsible for the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on hold while the criminal case accusing him of conspiring to overturn his election defeat to President Joe Biden plays out. It's the latest legal setback for the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, whose trial in a separate criminal case related to hush money payments made during the 2016 campaign began this week with jury selection in New York. The lawsuits brought by Democratic lawmakers and police officers who defended the Capitol on Jan. 6 seek civil damages for harm they say they suffered during the attack, which aimed to stop Congress' certification of Biden's victory. Trump has claimed he can't be sued over the riot that left

Washington's federal appeals court ruled in December that the lawsuits can move forward, rejecting Trump's sweeping claims that presidential immunity shields him from liability. The court, however, said Trump can continue to fight, as the cases proceed, to try to prove that his actions were taken in his official capacity as president. In court papers filed last month, Trump's lawyers told the judge that "basic fairness to

criminal defendants" warrants pausing the civil cases until after the 2020 election criminal case is resolved. They argued that allowing the lawsuits to proceed could force Trump to "prematurely telegraph" his defense strategies in the criminal case. Mehta, who was appointed to the bench by former President Barack Obama, said the public has an interest in the prompt resolution of the civil lawsuits in addition to the criminal case. And the judge said "appropriate safeguards" can be put in place to allow for the lawsuits to advance without infringing on Trump's Fifth Amendment right to avoid self-incrimination.

The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments next week on Trump's claim that he is immune from criminal prosecution in the election interference case brought by special counsel Jack Smith. The ruling will determine whether Trump will have to stand trial in the case accusing him of a sprawling conspiracy to stay in power after Americans voted him out of office.

Rishi Sunak to plan tougher rules to tackle UK's 'sick leave culture'

World British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will look at tightening the rules for long-term sick leave in a bid to reverse a rise in the number of Britons who have permanently dropped out of the workforce.

Labour force participation among working-age Britons is its lowest since 2015, due to a rise in long-term illness and a greater number of students, in contrast to other large, rich nations which have seen increased participation since 2020. Sunak, in excerpts of a speech due later on Friday, said the rising number of people not working due to mental health conditions was a particular concern. We need to be more ambitious about helping people back to work and more honest about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life," he said.

Some 9.4 million Britons aged 16 to 64 - 22% of that age group - are neither working nor unemployed, up from 8.55 million just before the pandemic, according to official data. Of



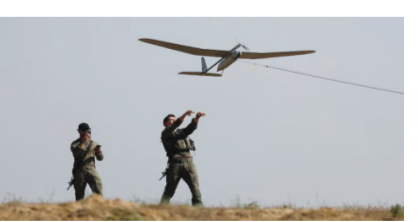
those, 2.8 million are long-term sick and 206,000 are temporarily ill. Last year Britain's budget watchdog said a quarter of people who were off work due to long-term sickness were waiting for medical treatment, although it added that cutting waiting lists to their 2015 length might only get 25,000 back into work. Over half of the long-term sick reported suffering from 'depression, bad nerves or anxiety', although many said it was a secondary condition alongside their main health problem.

Sunak's office said medics were too willing to issue repeat notes approving extended sick leave, rather than advising how a person could get back to work, paving the way for people to move on to long-term sickness benefits. Sunak said he wanted to test shifting the responsibility for assessment from family doctors to healthcare workers tasked with providing "an objective assessment of someone's ability to work and the tailored support they need to do so". "We don't just need to change the sick note culture, we need to change the sick note culture, so the default becomes what work you can do - not what you can't," he said.

Iran vs Israel: A look at their air forces as conflict escalates

Jerusalem. Iran's first direct attack on Israel on April 13 has brought renewed focus on their air-defence capabilities as Israeli leaders decide how best to respond. Below is a look at both countries' air forces and aerial defence systems: The Iranian air force has 37,000 personnel, but decades of international sanctions have largely cut the country off from the latest high-tech military equipment, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London (IISS). The air force only has a few dozen working strike aircraft, including Russian jets and ageing US models acquired before the Iranian revolution of 1979.

in their "best state of preparedness" to counter any potential Israeli attack. But Iran's dependence on Sukhoi-24s jets, first developed in the 1960s, shows the relative weakness of its air force. For defence, Iran relies on a mixture of Russian and domestically produced surface-to-air missiles and air defence systems. Tehran received deliveries of the S-300 anti-aircraft system from Russia in 2016, which are long-range surface-to-air missile systems capable of engaging multiple targets simultaneously, including aircraft and ballistic missiles. Iran also has the domestically produced Bavar-373 surface-to-air missile platform, as well as the Sayyad and Raad defence systems. Fabian Hinz, a research fellow at IISS, said: "If there was a major conflict between the two countries, Iran would probably concentrate on occasional successes. They don't have the comprehensive air defences that Israel has." ISRAEL Israel has an advanced, US-supplied air force with hundreds of F-15, F-16 and F-35 multipurpose jet fighters. These played a role in shooting down Iranian drones at the weekend. The air force lacks long-range bombers, though a smaller fleet of repurposed Boeing 707s serve as



refuelling tankers that could enable its fighters to reach Iran for pinpoint sorties. A pioneer in drone technology, Israel has Heron pilotless planes capable of flying for more than 30 hours, enough for far-ranging operations. Its Delilah loitering munition has an estimated range of 250 km (155 miles) - far short of the Gulf, though the air force could close the gap by delivering one of the munitions closer to Iran's border. Israel is widely believed to have developed long-range surface-to-surface missiles, but neither confirms nor denies this. In 2018, then-Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman announced that the Israeli military would get a new "missile force". The military has not said where those plans now stand. A multi-layer aerial defence system developed with US help after the 1991 Gulf War provides Israel with several additional

options for shooting down long-range Iranian drones and missiles. The highest-altitude system is Arrow-3, which intercepts ballistic missiles in space. An earlier model, Arrow-2, works at lower altitudes. The mid-range David's Sling counters ballistic missiles and cruise missiles, while the short-range Iron Dome tackles the kind of rockets and mortars used by Iranian-backed militias in Gaza and Lebanon - but can also, in theory, be fired at any more powerful missiles missed by Arrow or David's Sling. The Israeli systems are designed to be patched into counterpart US interceptors in the region for coalition-strength defences. "Israel's air defences performed well over the course of the (April 13) attack," said Sidharth Kausha, a research fellow at the Royal United Strategic Institute in London. He noted that some of the incoming targets, particularly drones, were shot down by allied aircraft before they reached Israel, "which limited its degree of exposure to some threat types, and there appears to have been sufficient early warning to enable preparation of a coalition response which means the system was better prepared than it might have been if exposed."

DVC to invest Rs 2200 Crore to boost Power Supply

— Focuses on quality generation, consumer welfare

by Ashis Sinha

RNS I Bokaro: Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is actively pursuing reliable power generation and supply. To enhance its electricity supply, DVC is contemplating a Rs 2200 crore investment in expanding its transmission lines nationwide, as stated by Chairman S. Suresh Kumar.



Addressing a 'Customers Meet' at the Hans Regency in Bokaro Steel City, Kumar emphasised DVC's commitment to quality power generation, distribution and addressing consumer issues across the country. DVC is striving to generate quality power and contribute to society and the nation's welfare. Kumar highlighted the potential for expanding electricity generation and social services in the DVC command area, he said.

"We are taking necessary actions based on consumer feedback," assured Kumar to DVC energy customers present at the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, M Raghuram, Member Technical, mentioned DVC's goal of providing consumers with 24-hour electrical service, which requires cooperation from the country's inhabitants. He also noted that DVC currently has an adequate coal supply and plays a significant role in power generation and distribution in the country.

Member Secretary John Mathai highlighted DVC's role in providing electricity domestically and internationally and its contribution to India's progress and society since independence. He emphasised DVC's efforts in societal advancement through power generation, education, and health. Member Finance, Arup Sarkar linked DVC's progress with the nation's and society's upliftment, stating,

"DVC can contribute to the economic and social prosperity of the country and society." During the meeting, the Chairman presented mementos to representatives of Kolkata Carbide, Maihar Alloys, Sundaram Steel Pvt. Ltd., and Siyaji Industries for being the best electricity consumers. Hundreds of electricity consumers attended the event and praised DVC's initiatives. Executive Director, Finance, Sanjeev Srivastava explained DVC's functioning system and encouraged consumers to support each other. Besides others Executive Director Dinesh Kumar Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Anjani Dubey, Subhash Singh, Manoj Kumar Thakur, Avijit Ghosh, and Rajeev Ranjan Sinha were present in the meet.

Zero voters turnout in six Nagaland districts

RNS: The six out of the 16 administrative districts in Nagaland recorded "zero percent" voting during the elections, while the remaining districts saw regular voter turnout. The Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), which has been advocating for the amalgamation of six underdeveloped districts into a single state since 2010, declared a "public emergency" and urged voters to stay at home. Consequently, only a few votes were cast in these districts. The Chief Electoral Officer of the northeastern state has informed ENPO about alleged attempts to interfere with the election process. It is claimed that certain groups tried to restrict voters' movement in the eastern Nagaland areas to influence the general election. Therefore, ENPO

is required to justify its actions or lack thereof under section 171C(1) of the Indian Penal Code. ENPO has clarified that the public notice was issued to maintain peace and curb anti-social activities in East Nagaland. They emphasized that consultations with stakeholders led to the declaration of a public emergency in East Nagaland. The organization further stated that their initiative was voluntary and community-driven, and thus, section 171C does not apply, as there was no crime of undue influence during the elections. They acknowledged that there may have been some miscommunication and expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Election Commission to resolve any issues.

LS Poll 2024: First Phase Sees 60.03% Voter Turnout Across 21 States and UTs



RNS I New Delhi: The first phase of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 witnessed a voter turnout of 60.03 percent in 102 seats across 21 states and Union Territories on Friday.

Polling was conducted for all seats in Tamil Nadu (39), Rajasthan (12), Uttar Pradesh (8), Madhya Pradesh (6), Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1), and Lakshadweep (1). Additionally, five seats each from Assam and Maharashtra, four from Bihar, three from West Bengal, two in Manipur, and one each from Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chhattisgarh went to the polls in the first phase of the 7-phase general elections.

Four states, including Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, are also electing new assemblies alongside the Lok Sabha election. Arunachal Pradesh (60 seats) and Sikkim (32 seats) have already conducted their elections.

According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the voter turnout was 60.03 percent as of 7 pm. Tamil Nadu recorded a turnout of 63.2 percent, Rajasthan 50.3 percent, Uttar Pradesh 57.5 percent, and Madhya Pradesh 63.3 percent.

For the state elections, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh recorded turnouts of 67.5 percent and 64.7 percent, respectively. West Bengal saw the highest participation with a turnout of 77.57 percent, as per the ECI.

DAV Public School, Gua Celebrates Mahatma Hansraj's Birth Anniversary with Joy

RNS I Chaibasa (West Singhbhum): DAV Public School, Gua, celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj with enthusiasm and reverence. The day commenced with a prayer meeting where students and teachers paid homage to Mahatma Hansraj by garlanding his image and offering flowers. The occasion was particularly special as Mahatma Hansraj was the founding figure of DAV Gua.



Principal Usha Rai enlightened the gathering about Mahatma Hansraj's life, stating that he was born on April 19, 1864, in Bajwada, Hoshiarpur. She recounted his journey, highlighting how after obtaining a BA from Calcutta University in 1885, Mahatma Hansraj contemplated establishing a Dayanand School or College instead of pursuing a government job. In 1886, with the support of Lal Lajpat Rai, Pandit Gurudutt Vidyarthi, Bhai Parmanand, and others, the first DAV school was established in Lahore's Arya Samaj, which later flourished

into a vast network of educational institutions. Mahatma Hansraj served as its unpaid founder and first principal. Today, over 900 DAV schools and institutions provide education across the country. Principal Usha Rai encouraged students to emulate Mahatma Hansraj's values of honesty and sacrifice. Teachers Rajveer Singh, PK Acharya, and Ashutosh Shastri reiterated the school's commitment to honoring Mahatma Hansraj and Swami Shradhanand for their contributions to education and nation-building. Anvesha Sahu and Ridhima

WHO Raises Concerns Over Avian Influenza Transmission to Humans



RNS I Kolkata: The World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed deep concern over the global spread of avian influenza, commonly known as "bird flu," to mammals, including humans. Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist at WHO, highlighted the significant public health threat posed by the H5N1 avian influenza virus, which has shown an extremely high mortality rate among the several hundred people known to have been infected with it. While no human-to-human transmission of H5N1 has been recorded to date, Dr.

Farrar emphasized the virus's ability to evolve and potentially develop the ability for human-to-human transmission. He noted that the virus initially started in poultry and ducks but has now spread to mammals, including dairy cows in the United States. The ongoing outbreak of H5N1 among dairy cows in the United States is of particular concern, with Dr. Farrar urging close monitoring and investigation by public health authorities. He highlighted the need to understand the mechanisms of transmission, including through aerosols

created by milking structures or environmental factors. To address these challenges, WHO has announced updated language to describe airborne pathogens, aiming to enhance international cooperation in combating new global pandemics. The initiative, initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, seeks to standardize terms used by medics and scientists to describe transmission routes, such as replacing "aerosols" and "droplets" with "infectious respiratory particles" (IRPs) to avoid confusion about particle sizes.

Gaya LS Constituency Records Peaceful Polling

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: Voting in the Gaya Lok Sabha constituency remained peaceful, with a turnout of 52% recorded so far. The day started with polling booths facing issues such as poor drinking water arrangements at locations like Railway Mixed Primary School near the railway station and Marshalling Yard.



However, improvements were made later, ensuring a smoother voting process. District Magistrate and District Election Officer Dr. Tayagarajan SM monitored the urban area booths in Gaya, where voting proceeded without major incidents apart from some EVM malfunctions and voter protests in Bodh Gaya. Despite these challenges, voting commenced promptly at 7 am,

with long queues forming at most polling booths. Pandals were set up near booths to provide shelter from the sun, which was appreciated by voters. Election staffs were provided with drinking water, and in some cases, cold drinks were supplied to cope with the heat. Local

activist Gudu Yadav even provided drinking water in traditional containers at one booth. To facilitate voter turnout, arrangements were made for voters to be dropped off and picked up at the gates of polling stations, and in some cases, private vehicles went up to the booth

entrances to assist senior citizens and disabled persons. Efforts were made to rectify EVM malfunctions promptly, although some polling officials faced difficulties in addressing issues related to missing names in the electoral rolls, especially in urban areas.

Couples Safety Training" Program Promotes Safety Culture at Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines



by S K Pandey

Gua: The Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) and JGOM Safety Department organized a "Couples Safety Training" program at the Officers' Club, Kiriburu. The initiative aimed to raise safety awareness among families, particularly regarding potential hazards in mining and the responsibilities of working spouses.

The program, attended by 25 couples from Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines employees, emphasized the importance of understanding family history for personal development, echoing Marcus Garvey's quote, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots." Inaugurated by distinguished guests including Sri Kamlesh Rai, CGM (Mines)-KIOM, and Smt. Sunita Rai, the event highlighted the collective responsibility of workplace and household supervisors in ensuring employee safety. Sri Ram Singh, GM (Mine) I/c & Mines Manager, stressed the significance of husbands' safety for the well-being of their families. The program also showcased SAIL's digital learning and development initiatives, presented by Shri Rathin Biswas, AGM (B.E.) & I/c HRDC, Dr. S J Kullu, DCMO, Sri Amit Kumar Biswas, DGM (P&A), Sri S. U. Medda, AGM (Safety), and Smt. Shalini Parashar conducted the training, which included essential safety guidelines for mine workers. Participants also had the opportunity to visit Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines, enabling spouses to gain firsthand experience of the work environment. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to promoting a safety-first approach both at work and at home

SAIL becomes All India Public Sector Volleyball Tournament Champion; also wins Hockey Tournament

RNS I New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has added another feather to its cap by winning both the All India Public Sector Volleyball Tournament-2024 and the recent All India Public Sector Hockey Tournament. In the All India Public Sector Volleyball Tournament held from 15 to 18 April, 2024, in Bhopal and organized by the All India Public Sector Sports Control Board (AIPSSCB), SAIL emerged victorious by defeating Oil India with a score of 3-0. This victory marked SAIL's triumph over eight other participating public sector teams, including LIC, BSNL, Coal India, Nivelli Lignite Corporation, Oil India, ESIC, BHEL, and NALCO. SAIL had previously secured the championship title in the All India Public Sector Hockey Tournament held in Bhubaneswar, where they defeated the Food Corporation of India.



These back-to-back victories underscore SAIL's unwavering commitment to promoting and nurturing sports talent. The company actively supports sports academies across the country and organizes inter-cell sports championships within its plants and units to develop infrastructure and foster emerging talent. Additionally, various sports competitions

are held throughout the year under the SAIL Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB). SAIL's success in both volleyball and hockey tournaments reflects its dedication to sports excellence and the development of a robust sports culture within the organization.

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Students at DAV 6 Bokaro actively takes part in the "Abridgment Our Culture Our Identity" competition



RNS I Bokaro: Students at DAV Public School, Sector 6, Bokaro, actively participated in the "Abridgment Our Culture Our Identity" competition, showcasing their talents and cultural understanding.

The co-curricular tournament, which included students from grades L, K, G, and UKG, featured participants from all Hansraj, Vivekananda, Dayanand, and Shradhanand Sadan. The event commenced with the recitation of the Gayatri Mantra and the school's anthem, highlighting the importance of Indian culture and values.

Principal Brijmohan Das, the chief guest, emphasized the significance of such activities in promoting Indian culture and values among youngsters. He highlighted the importance of organizing such events for the overall development of children, as they help in acquiring mental, physical, and psychological skills and learning social behavior.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who presented a skit titled "Greetings, our culture and values." Participants from UKG included Abhinandan Sinha, Arnab Mishra, Rohan Raj, Shrishti Kumari, Sushmita Besra, Vanshika Vivek Oraon, Nikhil Kumar, Mevan Kumar, Arnab Mandal, Aarohi Mandal, Shanvi Mishra, Raunak, Aakriti, Dishant, and Harsh.

The event also saw the active involvement of teachers Bhavna Ghale and Aradhana, along with students Aditya, Akhil Nishad, Satvik Singh, Yug Singh, Yes Singh, Shreyas, Sonali, Sonam, Sahil, Shreya Tigga, Saksham, Ridhima, Ronit, Nikhil, Nidhi, Rishant, Ansh Kumar, Rihaan, and Aarohi. The event was a collaborative effort of all teachers and students, fostering a sense of unity and cultural pride among the participants.

DRDO delivers first batch of indigenous Leading Edge Actuators & Airbrake Control Module to HAL for LCA Tejas Mk1A

RNS: DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), marking a significant leap towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies. The HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A order.

The Secondary Flight Control of LCA-Tejas, comprising Leading Edge Slats and Airbrakes, now boasts state-of-the-art Servo-Valve based electro-hydraulic servo actuators and control modules. These high pressure, redundant servo actuators and control module, characterised by astute design, precision manufacturing, assembly, and testing, represent a culmination of ADA's relentless pursuit of indigenous technological prowess. Collaborating with Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, and Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru, ADA plans to achieve self-reliance in these technologies. The successful completion of flight trials for Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Modules has paved the way for production clearance, enabling HAL to gear up for equipping the Mk-1A variant of LCA Tejas.

The production of these critical components is underway at the Accessories Division, HAL, Lucknow, marking a significant stride towards bolstering India's aerospace manufacturing capabilities. Noteworthy contributions from public and private industries, including Godrej Aerospace, Mumbai, alongside certification agencies such as CEMILAC and DGAQA, have been instrumental in this endeavor.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO and DG-ADA congratulated the entire team of ADA, RCI, HAL, CMTI and all participating industries for achieving this significant milestone.

Amit Shah files nomination from Gandhinagar: 'Rose from booth worker to MP'

Amit Shah filed his nomination from Gandhinagar on Friday and recalled his journey from being a booth karyakarta to a Member of Parliament.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah recalled his journey from being a booth karyakarta (worker) in Gujarat to a Member of Parliament as he filed his nomination from Gandhinagar on Friday. Amit Shah said it was a matter of pride that the seat was represented by BJP stalwarts like LK Advani and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The veteran BJP leader has represented Gandhinagar as an MLA and then as an MP for 30 years. Shah was accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel when he submitted the nomination papers to Gandhinagar collector and district election officer in the state capital at 12:39 pm exactly, considered as 'Vijay Muhurat'.



years. The people of this region have given me immense love," he said. **FROM BOOTH WORKER TO HOME MINISTER** Brought up in a village in Gujarat's Maansa, Amit Shah has been credited for turning the BJP into an election-winning machine. From a very young age, Amit Shah was inspired by the RSS. Shah started going to RSS shakhas since 1980, when he was 16. He joined the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the

student wing of the RSS, in 1983. Before joining the ABVP, Shah worked as a booth-level worker in Naranpura area, pasting the BJP's posters on walls. Shah joined the BJP in 1984-85. His astute political mind and skills as an organiser were noted, and he was soon appointed the national treasurer of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha. The big break in Amit Shah's political career came in 1991.

That year, Shah was appointed the election campaign manager of LK Advani in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency. Advani won the seat comfortably and was impressed with Shah's election management. Since then, there has been no looking back for him. Shah also became a trusted lieutenant of Narendra Modi when he became the Gujarat Chief Minister. In 2014, Shah was made the BJP national president and five years later, he was promoted as the Home Minister.

Open "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" By Defeating Hatred: Rahul Gandhi To Voters

New Delhi: As polling began in the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls on Friday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged voters to strengthen democracy and open 'Mohabbat ki Dukaan' in every corner of the country by defeating hatred. Today is the first phase of voting! Remember, each and every vote of yours is going to decide the future of India's democracy and its generations," Mr Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on 'X'. "Go out and strengthen democracy by applying the balm of your vote on the wounds inflicted on the soul of the country in the last 10 years," he said.



Open 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' in every corner of the country by defeating hatred, the Congress leader added. Mr Gandhi also shared a graphic of the key Congress guarantees to the people, including the right to apprenticeship, a legal

guarantee of MSP and a nationwide caste census. The 2024 Lok Sabha polls kicked off Friday with polling being held for the first phase scheduled in 102 seats spread across 21 states and Union territories. Among those in the fray are Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal and Bhupendra Yadav, Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress, the DMK's Kanimozhi and K Annamalai of the B J P . A s s e m b l y elections in Arunachal Pradesh (60 seats) and Sikkim (32 seats) are also being held simultaneously. While the BJP-led NDA under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a stronger majority, the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc are hoping for a rebound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Tamil Nadu Votes For 39 Constituencies, Key Battles To Watch Out For

In Current Lok Sabha Election 950 candidate have nominated their name to contest on the 39 parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.



New Delhi: The vote-casting has begun at 7 AM in Tamil Nadu for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections for all 39 parliamentary constituencies. The voting is proceeding in the state under high security. Approximately 3,32,233 polling personnel have been deployed and 1.3 lakh police personnel are on election duty. Today, the polling both witnessed the state's Chief Minister M K Stalin, and his wife Durga Stalin, who came cast their vote. This time

950 candidate have nominated their name to contest on the Tamil Nadu Lok Sabha constituency. About 6.23 crore voters are poised to cast their votes in 68,321 polling stations in the current general elections. Many prominent leaders are participating in elections including BJP's K Annamalai, DMK's Dayanidhi Maran, Karti

Chidambaram and others. **Key Candidate For Tamil Nadu Lok Sabha Elections**

K Annamalai: BJP leader and prominent face of Tamil Nadu Lok Sabha Elections K Annamalai is contesting from Coimbatore constituency. K Annamalai, opposed by DMK leader Ganapathy P Rajkumar and AIADMK leader Singai Ramachandran. Dayanidhi Maran: DMK candidate Dayanidhi Maran is all set to contest from Chennai Central in the current Lok Sabha Polls.

Maran is the second son of ex-minister Murasoli Maran, who served as the Commerce and Industrial minister. Karti Chidambaram: Congress candidate Karti Chidambaram is all set to contest from the Shivaganga parliamentary constituency of Karnataka, where his father won seven times. He is challenged by BJP's T Devanathan Yadav and AIADMK's Xavier Dass.

"Had Mangoes Only Thrice, Sweets 6 Times In Jail": Arvind Kejriwal's Lawyer



New Delhi: Did Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - in Tihar Jail on corruption charges linked to the alleged liquor policy scam - eat mangoes while behind bars? Did his tea have sugar or a non-calorific sweetener? And how many times did he eat aloo-puri? These are the questions at the heart of the latest row between the Aam Aadmi Party leader - a Type 2 diabetes patient - and the Enforcement Directorate, which had opposed his request for daily 15-minute video consults with his doctor. The AAP has claimed a "conspiracy to kill" the Delhi Chief Minister, who reportedly requires insulin twice a day. On Thursday evening Mr Kejriwal's party colleague, Atishi, alleged the AAP leader had not been given the required dose - life-saving for a patient with severe diabetes - "despite repeated requests".

Earlier, in a detailed statement submitted to the court, Mr Kejriwal countered each of the ED's arguments against allowing him a video consultation with his doctor. The ED had argued the Chief Minister regularly ate mangoes and sweets, and drunk tea with copious amounts of sugar.

Mr Kejriwal's Insulin Schedule

Noting the "applicant" has been a diabetes patient for 22 years, the document states he had been receiving injections of insulin twice a day for the past 12 years. These doses are 28 units of Novorapid (before meals) and 22 units of Lanctus (at night), for a total of 50 units, the document said. The statement claimed Mr Kejriwal had been advised to discontinue insulin injections from February 1 "under careful medical supervision". Mr Kejriwal said he was then told to follow a "daily medical and dietary" schedule that includes regular exercise. However, after his arrest (on March 21), the Chief Minister said he had been "incapacitated and unable to follow (the new schedule)". He was, therefore, returned to his course of injections. "However, to this date since his arrest, applicant has not been administered insulin to control his sugar levels," the AAP leader's lawyer told the court.

Lok Sabha Election 2024: Top 10 Contests In Phase 1 Polls

Check out the details of the top ten leaders who are all set to contest in the first phase of polls.

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Elections are set to unfold today in 102 constituencies including 21 states and UTs. The first phase is going to witness the polls in prominent states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and others. Here is a list of the top ten prominent leaders who are all set to face the test of the electoral outset in the first phase of polls.

Nitin Gadkari

BJP candidate and Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is all set to contest the Lok Sabha 2024 Election from the Nagpur constituency of Maharashtra. He has played a role in the expansion of infrastructure in the country.

Jitendra Singh

Union Minister and BJP candidate for Lok Sabha Polls Jitendra Singh is going to contest from one of the most prominent Lok Sabha seats. Singh has been nominated from the Udhampur constituency of Jammu and Kashmir and seeking a third



consecutive win. He is contesting against Congress's Chaudhary Lal Singh.

Bhupender Yadav

The Alwar constituency in Rajasthan is considered as a high-profile seat in the first phase of Lok Sabha Polls. BJP leader and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav is facing a challenge from Congress MLA

Lalit Yadav. Both the party has fielded Yadav candidates for the Lok Sabha seat.

Arjun Ram Meghwal

BJP senior leader and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal seeking a fourth term victory against the Congress former minister Govind Ram Meghwal. The reserved SC constituency of Rajasthan's Bikaner is setting the stage for a Meghwal vs. Meghwal in the first phase of polls.

Kiran Rijju

Union Minister Kiran Rijju is contesting on a BJP ticket from Arunachal Pradesh where he faces former Chief Minister Nabam Tuki of the Congress party.

K Annamalai

BJP's prominent face and state president K Annamalai is set to test the electoral out from the Coimbatore constituency of Tamil Nadu. He is contesting the polls against DMK leader Ganapathy P Rajkumar and AIADMK leader Singai Ramachandran.

Chhindwara Lok Sabha Election: Mayor Urges Voters To Support Congress Despite Joining BJP

The BJP has fielded Vivek Bunt Sahu and several top party leaders have visited the constituency to campaign for him. Chhindwara is one of the six Lok Sabha seats where the first phase of the parliamentary elections is currently taking place.

New Delhi: Amidst the voting in the 1st phase of Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara, the city mayor's Vikram Ahake, who recently switched to BJP from Congress, urged the people to vote in favour of the Congress. Taking u-turn, Ahake posted a video on social media urging people to vote for the Congress candidate Nakul Nath, son of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. The BJP has fielded Vivek Bunt Sahu and several top party leaders have visited the constituency to campaign for him. Chhindwara is one of the six Lok Sabha seats where the first phase of the parliamentary elections is currently taking place.

"Soon after joining a political party, I was feeling suffocated. I felt that I was not doing the right thing with a person who has developed Chhindwara," Ahake said in the video. Nath always devoted himself to the constituency's betterment, be it the education sector,



providing treatment to people or carrying out development works, said Ahake.

"In the future, I will get a lot of opportunities to do politics. I don't know what will happen to me, but if I

don't stand with my leader Kamal Nath and Nakul Nath today... as they have done a lot for me... I appeal to the voters to ensure the victory of Nakul Nath (and his father Kamal Nath) with a huge margin," Ahake said in the

video message. Mayor Ahake joined the BJP on April 1 in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and state party president Vishnu Dutt Sharma in the state capital. Among the 29 Lok Sabha seats

in Madhya Pradesh, Chhindwara is the only constituency that the BJP lost in 2019. The seat has been claimed nine times by former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath.

'I made INDIA alliance in Bengal, don't waste vote on Congress': Mamata Banerjee

Murshidabad. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday criticised the opposition bloc INDIA partners -- CPI (M) and Congress -- for "joining hands with the BJP" in West Bengal and asserted that the opposition front ceases to exist in the state. The Chief Minister also urged people not to cast their votes in favour of Congress and the CPI (M). She was addressing a poll campaign rally in Murshidabad. "There is no INDIA alliance in West Bengal. I played a

key role in the formation of the opposition alliance INDIA. Even the name of the alliance was given by me. But here in West Bengal, the CPI (M) and Congress are working for the BJP," Mamata Banerjee said. "Don't cast your vote in favour of the Congress and the CPI (M) if you want to defeat the BJP," she added. Earlier in January, Mamata Banerjee had announced that her party would contest the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal alone, rebuffing efforts by the Congress leadership.

Iran-Israel war keeps world in suspense

IRAN reportedly fired about 350 missiles and drones at Israel on April 13 in response to Israel's attack on its consulate in Damascus on April 1, which had resulted in the killing of seven senior military officials, including Gen Mohammad Reza Zahedi, who was handling Iran's relations with the Hezbollah in Lebanon. About 115-130 missiles targeting Israel were intercepted by the Israeli and allied air defences; others failed in flight and did not reach their target. Iran had alerted the Americans through Swiss, Iraqi, Turkish and Jordanian sources 72 hours in advance about the attack, though without specifying the exact time. Thus, there was no damage, except serious injuries to a seven-year-old Israeli girl. The attack was largely symbolic; the Iranians wanted to tell Israel that they had the capability to hurt it. Tel Aviv's reaction was full of indignation, with the Israeli war cabinet favouring retaliation, though it was divided over the timing and scale of the response. US President Joe Biden told PM Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel had won by thwarting the missiles and that the US would not take part in any counter-offensive against Iran. Two senior Israeli ministers said Tel Aviv would not act alone and build a regional coalition against Iran. The Israeli attack indicated a change of strategy as it had in the past targeted the Iranian associates or proxies mostly in countries involved in supplying weapons or other support to the 'resistance' groups (except nuclear scientists in Iran). Tehran's support for the Hamas in its audacious attack on Israel in October last year, audacious missile attacks by the Hezbollah in recent days and Houthi attacks on Israeli and American ships in the Red Sea indicated that Iran was feeling emboldened. By attacking the Iranian consulate in Damascus — a protected facility under the international conventions — Israel sent a clear message to Iran that its aggressive actions would not go unpunished and that Tel Aviv would go to any extent to strike directly at Tehran. The latter had also avoided attacking Israel, fearful of America's 'ironclad' support for Tel Aviv and the adverse impact of a large-scale conflict on its economy, which is reeling under high inflation, low economic growth, shortage of various commodities due to sanctions and domestic discontent. Iran was obliged to take this symbolic action to retain its credibility among its people, foreign proxies and other countries supporting it.

The Arab states were divided in their reaction to the Iranian attack. Saudi Arabia and the UAE reportedly passed on intelligence to the US on Iran's plans to attack Israel, and it helped thwart the massive assault. Jordan actively participated in shooting drones heading to Israel. Several Arab countries allowed the use of their airspace to intercept the Iranian missiles and drones, and some even supplied their forces for assistance. Egypt called for restraint on both sides.

As the Iranian attack became imminent, the US ordered the deployment of aircraft and missile defence systems in the region and coordinated actions between Israel and Arab governments. As per reports, the US operations centre in Qatar tracked the missiles and drones launched by Iran through its radars in the Gulf countries. This information was sent to fighter jets, ships and missile defence systems operating in the region. As soon as the drones and missiles came within range, they were shot down mostly by American and Israeli fighters and some by British, French and Jordanian warplanes. Besides President Biden, leaders from the UK, Germany, France and other countries have appealed to Israel not to retaliate following the attack. India has asked both countries to go for immediate de-escalation, exercise restraint, step back from violence and return to the path of diplomacy. China expressed 'deep concern' and called on "influential countries (read the US) to play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability". Russia said "all disagreements be resolved exclusively by political and diplomatic methods.

With DMK-led alliance leading, real battle for 2nd spot in TN

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

WITH Tamil Nadu set to vote on April 19 in the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections, candidates and campaigners of political parties are braving the heat to win over voters. Elections in the state are often likened to a carnival, but this time, they have sparked a curious buzz. Alongside the usual contenders, the BJP is positioning itself as a formidable force. The party's state chief, K Annamalai, who is contesting from the Coimbatore constituency, is hopeful that the party will secure more than 20 per cent of the votes. Even as opinion polls predict an easy victory for the DMK-led ruling alliance, the real contest appears to be about securing the second place. However, even this perception could be a narrative crafted by the BJP. The AIADMK-led alliance and Tamil nationalist party Naam Thamizhar are also in the fray, making it a four-cornered contest. The DMK has retained its alliance with the Left, the Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, MDMK, and several smaller parties, while the AIADMK and the BJP parted ways in September last year. This rupture occurred after Annamalai allegedly made disparaging remarks about DMK founder CN Annadurai and AIADMK's former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. When MG Ramachandran (MGR) chose to leave the DMK and establish his own party, he decided to name it after his mentor, Anna. Thus, Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was born. The name was later changed to the AIADMK — All India (Anaitu Indhiya) Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Given this legacy, the party could not afford to be indifferent to remarks that disparaged Anna. In response, the AIADMK demanded Annamalai's replacement for the alliance to continue. However, with the BJP high command refusing to yield, the AIADMK ultimately walked out. Following the split, both AIADMK and BJP made concerted efforts to build strong alliances. The AIADMK has aligned with DMDK (Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam), Puthiya Thamizhagam and SDPI (Social Democratic Party of India). On the other hand, the BJP has formed an alliance with Pattali Makkal Katchi, Tamil Maanila Congress, Anna Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (a splinter group of the AIADMK, formed by TTV Dhinakaran, nephew of VK Sasikala, who was a close associate of Jayalalithaa), and a few other parties. O Panneerselvam, another AIADMK dissident leader, will be contesting as an independent candidate backed by the BJP-led front.

Since the formation of these alliances, both fronts have been aggressively targeting each other, in addition to taking on the DMK-led front. Annamalai has claimed that the AIADMK will cease to exist after June 4 and that the party's cadres will rally around Dhinakaran. In response, AIADMK leaders have issued sharp statements, with former Chief Minister and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi Palaniswami even advising Annamalai to mind his language.



While at the national level, this election is about the BJP's bid to retain power, the focus in Tamil Nadu is on the tussle between the AIADMK and the BJP. "The perception that there is a fight for the second place between the AIADMK and the BJP is primarily due to the splintering within the former," says AS Panneerselvam, the author of Karunanidhi: A Life. He explains: "There were two crucial transition points in the DMK. One was in 1969 after Annadurai's death, when there was uncertainty about whether Nedunchezhiyan or Karunanidhi would lead the party. This was resolved within 15 days. The second was after Karunanidhi's death, which again saw a smooth transition. In contrast, the AIADMK has had two painful transition points. One was after MGR's death; it took almost two years to resolve the succession issue.

The other was after Jayalalithaa's death, and it's unclear what the consolidation will be like. In the aftermath of Jayalalithaa's death, Palaniswami, who successfully took control of the party, expelled three prominent leaders — Sasikala, Dhinakaran and Panneerselvam — from the AIADMK. The trio hails from the powerful Thevar community. Under Palaniswami's leadership, there appears to have been a consolidation of support

from the Gounder community, to which he belongs. "There are doubts about Palaniswami's leadership. No one knows how this is going to play out," says Panneerselvam. "If there is a perception of a fight for the second place, it's because of the AIADMK's internal contradictions and infighting. The challenge for the AIADMK could possibly be how it is going to reinvent itself," he adds. Durai Karuna, a senior journalist who has extensively covered AIADMK affairs, acknowledges that the party may undergo consolidation in the event of an electoral setback, but he does not believe that the AIADMK will cease to exist, as Annamalai claims. According to him, the AIADMK's organisational setup and cadre base — which the BJP cannot match — will stand it in good stead. The BJP is indeed pulling out all the stops to step up its narrative and presence in Tamil Nadu. For now, the party is aiming to turn perception into reality, converting the buzz about it into votes through a variety of strategies. These include fielding prominent figures in the elections and having Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaign in the state over half a dozen times, besides other national leaders. Whether these strategies will be successful remains to be seen, and the answer will be revealed on June 4.

Resilient Rushdie

Embattled author roots for freedom of speech

SALMAN Rushdie has proved beyond doubt that the pen is mightier than the sword — or the knife, for that matter. Over a year and a half after he was attacked by a young man on stage in New York, he has come out with a memoir, *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*. With his typically macabre sense of humour, Rushdie has recalled that he thought he was dying as his left eye hung down his face 'like a soft-boiled egg'. The Mumbai-born author, winner of the Booker Prize as well as the Booker of Bookers for his masterpiece *Midnight's Children*, was stabbed 12 times by Hadi Matar on August 12, 2022.

The attack didn't really come as a surprise to Rushdie. The threat of assassination had been hanging over his head like the sword of Damocles since the late 1980s, when Iran's then Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini



issued a fatwa against him over his controversial novel

The Satanic Verses. He was forced to remain in hiding for several years, even as Hitoshi Igarashi, who translated the book into Japanese, was stabbed to death in July 1991. Earlier that year, the novel's Italian translator, Ettore Capriolo, survived a stabbing at his home in Milan, while William Nygaard, the book's Norwegian publisher, narrowly escaped with his life after being shot at in Oslo in October 1993.

Commendably, the writer continues to be a zealous votary of free speech despite his traumatic, near-death experience. 'The whole point of freedom of speech is that you have to permit speech you don't agree with,' he said before the release of his new book. His resilience and defiance show that he won't be cowed by the threats and attacks of bigots and hate-mongers. Rushdie is in no rush to die — physically, morally or intellectually.

Xi keen on bolstering armed forces for warfare

Security remains Beijing's top concern. It was mentioned 28 times in the Govt Work Report, three times more than in last year's report.

NEARLY 6,000 members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the government's top echelons congregated in Beijing recently to attend the week-long plenary meetings of the National People's Congress (NPC) — China's version of a parliament — and its top political advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). This NPC session (March 4-11) signalled that President Xi Jinping had further consolidated his authority as China's pre-eminent leader and more firmly stamped the CCP's imprimatur on the state. Equally importantly, it reaffirmed China's global leadership ambitions. However, the economic difficulties were glossed over. The 40-page Government Work Report, read out by Premier Li Qiang on the opening day, included laudatory references to President Xi — mandatory since the 18th Party Congress in 2012. This year, however, Premier Li singled him out for special praise. Li asserted: "We owe our achievements in 2023 to General Secretary Xi Jinping, who is at the helm charting the course." Security remains Beijing's top concern and was mentioned 28 times in the report, three times more than in last year's report. Asserting the importance of "promoting stability through progress" while addressing leaders of central and provincial governments, Li stressed that "stability is of overall importance, as it is the basis for everything we do. All localities and government departments should adopt more policies that are conducive to keeping expectations, economic growth and employment stable". This emphasis on stability and security was also noticeable in the report of the Supreme People's Court, presented on March 8. It claimed an increase of 29.5 per cent in the number of completed cases. Interestingly, it referred to "0.04 per cent of the other cases" meaning those "harming national security, harming defence interests..." In other words, the Supreme People's Court tried 70,520 national security and defence-related cases

in 2023, but just under 1 in 20,000 Chinese were charged with subversion!

The national defence budget was increased by 7.2 per cent or 1.67 trillion yuan (\$231.4 billion), making 2024 the ninth straight year to see a single-digit hike in the country's defence budget. This budget has doubled since 2013, when Xi took over. This increase, in spite of a slowing GDP growth rate, confirms China's efforts to build a modern, technologically advanced, world-class army and its ambition to 'recover' its 'lost' territories. Noticeable is the fresh thrust towards advanced technology and emphasis on building the navy. Speaking to PLA representatives at the NPC and CPPCC plenary sessions on March 7, Xi "emphasised that the strategic capabilities in emerging fields are crucial components of the national strategic system and capabilities, which are related to the high-quality development of China's economy and society, national security, and the initiative of military struggle". He stressed the need to "promote the efficient integration and two-way stimulation of new productive forces and new combat forces". Xi stressed the importance of enhancing the strategic capabilities in emerging fields and said it was important to "integrate preparation for maritime military warfare, safeguarding maritime rights and development of the maritime economy". On the sidelines of the NPC session, Yuan Huazhi, Political Commissar of the PLA Navy and NPC Deputy, told the Hong Kong Commercial Daily (March 5) that China would unveil its fourth aircraft carrier soon. He said there were no obstacles in developing China's aircraft carrier technologies. The appointment of Gen Dong Jun, a PLA Navy officer and submariner, as Defence Minister will ensure adequate funds for the navy.



Xi also mentioned building a network space defence system and enhancing the ability to safeguard national network security. Alluding to the civil-military fusion, he called for strengthening the coordinated implementation of major projects in science and technology, promoting independent and original innovation, and fostering a vibrant ecosystem for innovation. Zhang Yuzhuo, Chairman of the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, disclosed that investment by central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in strategic emerging industries increased by 32.1 per cent in 2023 and that this would grow. He said there would be a focus "especially on brain-like intelligence, quantum information and controlled nuclear fusion". As anticipated, the Government Work Report sought to paper over China's economic problems. However, by

projecting a GDP growth rate of 5 per cent — the same as the previous year — and estimating the inflation rate also at last year's 3 per cent, it revealed the country's economic difficulties. The unchanged 5 per cent growth rate indicated the government's reluctance to set a figure it cannot reach, or a realistically low figure which would further undermine confidence. Unlike last year, when Beijing's abrupt exit from the 'zero Covid' policy saw a sudden burst in economic activities in the first half, this time, China has no such advantage. Further, though the government sees inflation at around 3 per cent, China's National Statistics Bureau reports that the economy is slipping into deflation. The CCP's failure to hold the Third

Plenum, which stipulates the country's economic goals, on schedule in October or November suggests differences within the party.

The NPC plenary session strengthened and reconfirmed Xi and the CCP's pre-eminent position. It indicated that manufacturing remains important and there will be emphasis on preserving China's position in the global supply chain. No stimulus measures were announced, however, for China's economy. China's private entrepreneurs would have been disappointed at the absence of incentives and the pronouncedly favoured status accorded by the Politburo to the SOEs. What was important was Xi's attention to strengthening the armed forces for multi-dimensional warfare (land, air, cyber, space and sea) by using advanced technology and enhancing the PLA Navy's capabilities.



नैनीताल जा रहे हैं तो ये 5 जगह देखना न भूलें

बर्फ से ढके पहाड़ों के बीच झीलों से घिरा नैनीताल उत्तराखंड राज्य का प्रसिद्ध हनीमून स्पॉट है। नैनी शब्द का अर्थ है आंखें और 'ताल' का अर्थ है झील। यहां आकर आपको शांत और प्रकृति के पास होने जैसा महसूस होगा। यहां चारों ओर खूबसूरती बिखरी है। सैर-सपाटे के लिए दर्जनों जगहें हैं, जहां जाकर पर्यटक हैरान रह जाते हैं और प्राकृतिक नजारों को बस देखते ही रहते हैं। आओ जानते हैं यहां के प्रमुख स्पॉट।

नैनीताल घूमने का सबसे अच्छा समय मार्च से जून

- नैनीताल नैना झील :**
यहां कि प्रसिद्ध झील नैना झील है जिसे ताल भी कहा जाता है। ताल में बत्खों के झुंड, रंग-बिरंगी नावें और ऊपर से बहती ठंडी हवा यहां एक अदभुत नजारा पेश करते हैं। ताल का पानी गर्मियों में हरा, बरसात में मटमैला और सर्दियों में हल्का नीला दिखाई देता है। एक समय में नैनीताल जिले में 60 से ज्यादा झीलें हुआ करती थीं।
- नैना देवी मंदिर :**
इसे नैनीताल इसलिए भी कहा जाता है क्योंकि यहां पर ऊंचे पहाड़ पर नैना देवी का एक मंदिर है।
- हिल स्टेशन :**
बर्फ से ढके पहाड़ों के बीच झीलों से घिरा नैनीताल उत्तराखंड राज्य का प्रसिद्ध हनीमून स्पॉट है। यहां टॉप पर नैना चोटी, स्नो व्यू और टिफिन टॉप है। स्नो व्यूप पर आप रोपवे से जा सकते हैं।
- प्राणी उद्यान नैनीताल :**
पंडित जीबी पंत प्राणी उद्यान यहां के प्रसिद्ध स्थल है। गोविंद बल्लभ पंत उच्च स्थलीय प्राणी उद्यान नैनीताल बस स्टेशन से लगभग 1 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है।
- हनुमानगढ़ी नैनीताल :**
यह यहां का धार्मिक स्थल है जो मुख्य शहर से करीब 4 किलोमीटर दूर पहाड़ी पर है। इसके अलावा गर्वनर हाउस है और शॉपिंग के लिए आप मार्केट मॉलरोड जा सकते हैं।

रोमांच और खतरों से भरी मां नंदादेवी की अद्भुत यात्रा

उत्तराखंड के चमोली जिले में जोशीमठ के तपोवन क्षेत्र में नंदा देवी का सबसे ऊंचा पहाड़ है। नंदादेवी के दोनों ओर ग्लेशियर यानी हिमनद हैं। इन हिमनदों की बर्फ पिघलकर एक नदी का रूप ले लेती है। यहां दो बड़े ग्लेशियर हैं- नंदादेवी नॉर्थ और नंदा देवी साउथ। दोनों की लंबाई 19 किलोमीटर है। इनकी शुरुआत नंदा देवी की चोटी से ही हो जाती है जो नीचे घाटी तक आती है। आओ जानते हैं नंदा देवी की ऐतिहासिक यात्रा की 10 खास बातें।

- माता पार्वती है नंदा देवी :** उत्तराखंड के लोग नंदादेवी को अपनी अधिष्ठात्री देवी मानते हैं और यहां की लोककथाओं में उन्हें हिमालय की पुत्री कहा गया है, अर्थात वे माता पार्वती हैं।
- गढ़वाल-कुमाऊं का मिलन :** नंदा देवी गढ़वाल के साथ साथ कुमाऊं कत्युरी राजवंश की इष्टदेवी थीं और वे उत्तराखंड की बेटी हैं, वह इस यात्रा के माध्यम से अपने



अल्मोड़ा भारत के उत्तराखंड राज्य का एक बहुत ही सुंदर नगर है। इसके पूर्व में पिथौरागढ़ व चम्पावत, पश्चिम में पौड़ी, उत्तर में बागेश्वर, दक्षिण में नैनीताल स्थित है। अल्मोड़ा में मनोरम पहाड़ी और घाटियां हैं जो आपका दिल मोह लेगी। यदि आप यहां जाने का प्लान कर रहे हैं तो जान लें इस क्षेत्र के बारे में दिलचस्प जानकारी।

अल्मोड़ा हिल स्टेशन

- अल्मोड़ा में कई मंदिर है। दूनागिरी मंदिर, कसार देवी मंदिर, चितई गोलू मंदिर, नंदादेवी मंदिर, कटारमल सूर्य मंदिर, जागेश्वर धाम मंदिर आदि कई बहुत ही सुंदर और चैतन्य मंदिर है। यहां अंग्रेजों के काल का बोडेन मेमोरियल मेथोडिस्ट चर्च भी है।
- अल्मोड़ा में घूमने लायक जगह जीरो पाइंट बहुत ही अद्भुत है जो बिनसर अभ्यारण्य में बहुत ऊंचाई पर स्थित है। यहां से आसमान को देखना बहुत ही रोमांचित कर देगा साथ ही यहां से केदारनाथ और नंदादेवी की चोटी को देखना तो आपके आश्चर्य और रोमांच को और भी ज्यादा बढ़ा देगा। यहां से हिमालय की वादियों का दृश्य आपको स्वर्ग में होने का अहसास देगा।
- अल्मोड़ा से 30 किलोमीटर दूर जलना एक छोटासा पहाड़ी गांव है जहां से आप प्रकृति और एकांत का आनंद ले सकते हैं। यहां पर 480 से अधिक पक्षियों की प्रजातियां, वनस्पतियों की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला और तितली संग्रह से भरे जंगल पाए जाते हैं।
- अल्मोड़ा से 3 किमी दूर स्थित, ब्राइट एंड कॉर्नर पाइंट से आप सूर्यास्त और सूर्योदय के लुभावने दृश्य देखकर रोमांचित हो उठेंगे। यह एक विशेष बिंदु है जहां से हिमालय के अविश्वसनीय दृश्य देख सकते हैं। हिमालयी चोटियों में जैसे त्रिशूल I, त्रिशूल II, त्रिशूल III, नंदादेवी, नंदकोट, पंचाचूली इत्यादि को देख सकते हैं।
- अल्मोड़ा कुमाऊं पर्वत श्रृंखला में स्थित है और यह माउंटेन बाइकिंग के लिए भारत में सबसे लोकप्रिय स्थलों में से एक है। और यदि यदि आप रिवर राफ्टिंग का आनंद लेना चाहते हैं तो काली शारदा नदी जाना होगा।

ससुराल यानी कैलाश पर्वत जाती है। इस ऐतिहासिक यात्रा को गढ़वाल-कुमाऊं के सांस्कृतिक मिलन का प्रतीक भी माना जाता है।

- सबसे ऊंची चोटी :** नंदा देवी पर्वत भारत की दूसरी एवं विश्व की 23वीं सर्वोच्च चोटी है। इस चोटी को उत्तरांचल राज्य में मुख्य देवी के रूप में पूजा जाता है। इससे ऊंची व देश में सर्वोच्च चोटी कंचनजंघा है। नंदा देवी पर्वत लगभग 25,643 फीट ऊंचा है।
- 12 वर्ष में एक बार यात्रा :** नंदा देवी की चढ़ाई अत्यधिक कठिन मानी जाती है। नंदा देवी की कुल ऊंचाई 7816 मीटर यानी 25,643 फीट है। यहां तक पहुंचने के लिए प्रत्येक 12 वर्ष में एक धार्मिक यात्रा का आयोजन होता है प्रतिवर्ष भाद्रपद के शुक्ल पक्ष में नंदादेवी मेला प्रारंभ होता है।
- हिमालयी कुंभ :** चूंकि इस यात्रा का आयोजन कुंभ की तरह हर बारह वर्ष के बाद होता है, इसलिए इसे हिमालयी कुंभ के नाम से भी जाना जाता है।
- आदि शंकराचार्य ने की थी यात्रा की शुरुआत :** नंदा देवी राजजात यात्रा को विश्व की सबसे लम्बी पैदल और धार्मिक यात्रा माना जाता है। इस पहाड़ पर चढ़कर माता के दर्शन करना बहुत ही कठिन होता है। इस यात्रा की शुरुआत आदि शंकराचार्य ने ईसा पूर्व की थी।
- यात्रा का प्रारंभ और अंत :** नंदादेवी की यह ऐतिहासिक यात्रा चमोली जनपद के नौटी गांव से शुरू होती है जो रूपकुंड होकर हेमकुंड तक जाती है जो 18 हजार फुट

अल्मोड़ा एक बहुत ही सुंदर नगर

अल्मोड़ा जाना चाहते हैं तो पहले इसे पढ़ें

- अल्मोड़ा का बिनसर अभ्यारण्य भी बहुत ही रोमांच से भरा है। अल्मोड़ा हिल स्टेशन से लगभग 33 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित बिनसर पर्यटन स्थल एक छोटा सा गांव है। जोकि देवदार के पेड़ों के हरे-भरे जंगल, घास के मैदान और खूबसूरत मंदिरों के लिए जाना जाता है।
- अल्मोड़ा का डियर पार्क अल्मोड़ा से लगभग 3 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है। डियर पार्क प्रकृति और वन्यजीव प्रेमियों के लिए शानदार डेस्टिनेशन है। डियर पार्क का सबसे प्रमुख आकर्षण देवदार के हरे-भरे वृक्ष है और उनके बीच घुमते हुए हिरण, तेंदुआ और काले भालू जैसे जानवर इसकी खूबसूरती को देखने लायक बना देते हैं।
- अल्मोड़ा भारत में कुछ बेहतरीन हस्तशिल्प और सजावटी वस्तुओं के संग्रह के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। यहां पर द्वाराहाट, रानीखेत, चौखुटिया और शीतलाखेत भी घूमने लायक बहुत ही सुंदर स्थान हैं।
- अल्मोड़ा से करीब 53 किलोमीटर उत्तर दिशा में स्थित है कौसाना नामक हिल स्टेशन जो प्राकृतिक छटा से भरपूर है। यहां देवदार के सघन वन हैं जिनके एक ओर सोमेश्वर घाटी और दूसरी ओर गरुड़ व बैजनाथ घाटी स्थित है।
- अल्मोड़ा तो किसी भी मौसम में जा सकते हैं लेकिन सबसे अच्छा समय मार्च से अप्रैल का महीना होता है क्योंकि यहां पर शांत वातावरण मिलता है। पंतनगर निकटतम हवाई अड्डा है जहां से अल्मोड़ा 120 किलोमीटर दूर है, काठगोदाम रेलवे स्टेशन यहां से 80 किलोमीटर दूर है। हरिद्वार, नैनीताल, देहरादूर और लखनऊ के सड़कमार्ग से अल्मोड़ा जुड़ा हुआ है।
- रोमांच और खतरों से भरी होती है ये यात्रा :** इस 280 किमी की धार्मिक यात्रा के दौरान रास्ते में घने जंगल, पथरीले मार्ग व दुर्गम चोटियों और बर्फोले पहाड़ों को पार करना पड़ता है। नंदादेवी चोटी के नीचे पूर्वी तरफ नंदा देवी अभ्यारण्य है। यहां कई प्रजातियों के जीव-जंतु रहते हैं। इसकी सीमाएं चमोली, पिथौरागढ़ और बागेश्वर जिलों से जुड़ती हैं।
- 19 दिन लगते हैं यात्रा पूर्ण होने में :** इस यात्रा को पूरा करने में 19 दिन का समय लग जाता है। इस यात्रा के 19 पड़ाव हैं। रास्ते में विभिन्न पड़ावों से होकर गुजरने वाली यह यात्रा में भिन्न-भिन्न पड़ावों पर लोग इस यात्रा में मिलकर इस यात्रा का हिस्सा बनते हैं। इस यात्रा का आयोजन नंदादेवी राजजात समिति द्वारा किया जाता है।
- यात्रा का आकर्षण चौसिंगा खाड़ :** इस यात्रा का मुख्य आकर्षण चौसिंगा खाड़ (चार सींगों वाला भेड़) होता है, जो स्थानीय क्षेत्र में राजजात यात्रा शुरू होने से पहले पैदा हो जाता है। उसकी पीठ में दो तरफ थैले में श्रद्धालु गहने, श्रृंगार सामग्री व अन्य भेंट देवी के लिए रखते हैं, जो कि हेमकुंड में पूजा होने के बाद आगे हिमालय की ओर प्रस्थान करता है। यात्रा में जाने वाले लोगों का मानना है कि यह चौसिंगा खाड़ आगे विकट हिमालय में जाकर विलुप्त हो जाता है। माना जाता है कि यह नंदादेवी के क्षेत्र कैलाश में प्रवेश कर जाता है, जो आज भी अपने आप में एक रहस्य बना हुआ है।

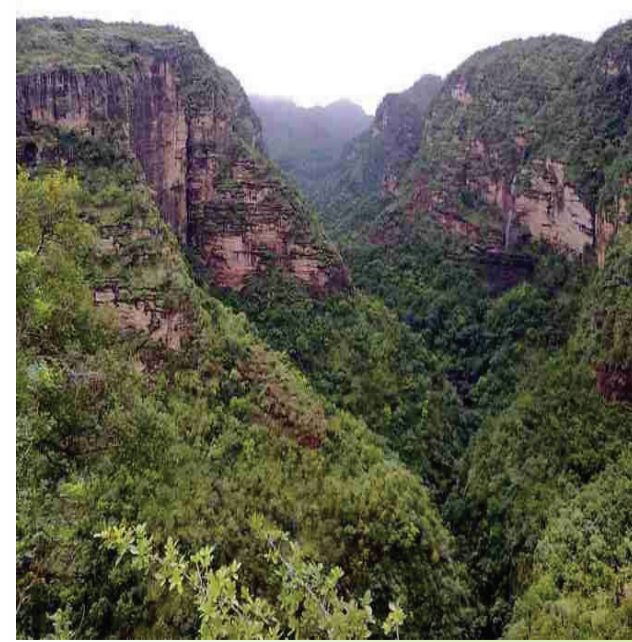


देश की 10 रोमांटिक जगह जरूर जाना चाहिए

रोमांटिक जगह पर घूमने जाना चाहते हैं तो भारत में ऐसी सैंकड़ों रोमांटिक जगहें हैं जहां पर आप जाकर अपने पार्टनर के साथ संबंधों की नई ऊंचाइयों को छू सकते हो। इसके लिए हम लाएं हैं भारत के टॉप 10 रोमांटिक और ब्यूटीफुल जगहों की जानकारी।

भारत की टॉप 10 रोमांटिक जगहें

- गोवा :**
समुद्र के किनारे बसा गोवा बहुत ही रोमांटिक जगह है। हनीमून मनाने वालों को भी खूब आकर्षित करता है। रोमांटिक स्थलों में यह सबसे टॉप पर माना जाता है।
- चंबा :**
उत्तराखंड के मसुरी से मात्र 13 घंटे की दूरी पर बसा है चंबा। चंबा की सीढ़ीनुमा सड़कें और ऊंचे-ऊंचे वृक्षों से लदी घुमावदार घाटियां, झुरमुटों में छुपे छोटे-छोटे घर आपके मन को मोह लेंगे।
- दार्जिलिंग :**
'कीन ऑफ हिल्स' के नाम से मशहूर दार्जिलिंग हमेशा से एक बेहतरीन हनीमून डेस्टिनेशन रहा है। यह बहुत ही रोमांटिक स्थल है। दूर-दूर तक फैले हरी चाय के खेत मानो धरती पर हरी चादर बिछी हो। सिर्फ चाय बागान नहीं हैं बल्कि यहां की वादियां भी बेहद मनोहारी हैं। बर्फ से ढंके सुंदर पहाड़, देवदार के जंगल, प्राकृतिक सुंदरता, कलकल करते झरने सबका मन मोह लेते हैं।
- शिमला :**
शिमला जाए या मनाली दोनों ही हिमालय में स्थित है। दोनों ही हनीमून के लिए सबसे प्रसिद्ध स्थल है। यहां घाटी और चारों ओर हिमालय पर्वत की चोटियों का सुंदर दृश्य दिखाई देता है। चारों ओर से पहाड़ों से घिरे शिमला और मनाली को देखकर रोमांच और रोमांस का अनुभव होता है।
- ऊटी :**
तमिलनाडु का विश्व प्रसिद्ध शहर ऊटी हनीमून के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त स्थान है। इसे पहाड़ों की रानी कहा जाता है। यहां दूर-दूर तक फैली हरियाली, चाय के बागान, तरह-तरह की वनस्पतियां आपको मंत्रमुग्ध कर देगी।
- लक्षद्वीप :**
32 किलोमीटर लंबी भूमि 36 से अधिक छोटे-छोटे टापुनुमा द्वीपों में बंटी हुई है, जिसे लक्षद्वीप कहा जाता है। यह दुनिया के सर्वाधिक विहंगम उष्ण कटिबंधी द्वीपों में से एक है। यहां सुंदर सफेद और लंबे लैगून (समुद्र तल, कच्छ या खाड़ी) है। यहां जाकर मन रोमांचित हो उठता है।
- उदयपुर :**
उदयपुर में भी आप कभी भी जा सकते हैं। यहां आप झीलों का मजा ले सकते हैं। यहां की हवेलियों और महलों की भव्यता को देखकर दुनिया भर के पर्यटक मंत्रमुग्ध हो जाते हैं।
- पचमढ़ी :**
होशंगाबाद जिले में स्थित पचमढ़ी मध्यप्रदेश का एकमात्र हिल स्टेशन है जिसे मध्यप्रदेश का श्रीनगर और स्विट्जरलैंड भी कहा जाता है। रोमांटिक स्थलों में यह टॉप पर है।
- लोनावला :**
महाराष्ट्र में मुंबई से करीब 96 किलोमीटर और खंडाला से लगभग 5 किलोमीटर दूर स्थित है लोनावला (लोणावळा) हिल स्टेशन। पूर्ण से मात्र 2 घंटे का रास्ता है। इसे झीलों का जिला कहते हैं। मुंबई और पूना वासियों के लिए यह उनका फेवोरिट डेस्टिनेशन है।
- श्रीनगर :**
कश्मीर को पहले सतीसर कहा जाता था और श्रीनगर जिसका पुराना नाम प्रवर पुर है। श्रीनगर के बहाने आप भारत के सबसे खूबसूरत राज्य जम्मू और कश्मीर में घूम सकते हैं। यहां सुंदर झीलों के साथ ही बर्फ से ढंके खूबसूरत पहाड़, झील और लंबे-लंबे देवदार के वृक्ष। यह वृक्ष समूचे कश्मीर की शोभा बढ़ाते हैं।



NEWS BOX

After Europa League exit, Liverpool ready for last push in Premier League title race

New Delhi. Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp admitted that their Europa League exit was not ideal, but looked ahead and said that the Reds will turn their focus completely on the Premier League title race. Liverpool beat Atalanta 1-0 away from home on Thursday, but it was still not enough for them to progress to the semi-final as they lost 3-1 on aggregate after a flop show at Anfield last week. Liverpool managed to secure a 1-0 victory on the night, courtesy of a penalty expertly converted by Mohamed Salah, in Bergamo. The Italian side managed to defend their lead valiantly at home, ensuring their passage to the semi-finals of the competition and march toward their first-ever European final.

"We gave ourselves a massive hurdle (in the first leg), but I liked the game a lot for a long time, the commitment, the desire, the power the boys showed was incredible. It is mixed emotions. We would have wished that we could have gone to Dublin (for the final), but that hasn't happened," Klopp said. We now have one competition left (Premier League) and we will throw ourselves into that



completely." Klopp's hopes of winning a European title in his last season as the manager of Liverpool went up in smoke despite a resilient show. However, Liverpool are in the Premier League race. Liverpool are currently at 3rd and tied on points with second-placed Arsenal, 2 behinds behind leaders Manchester City, who were also knocked out of the Champions League quarter-final by Real Madrid.

LAST PUSH IN PREMIER LEAGUE

Following a surprising defeat to Crystal Palace, Klopp highlighted the need for conviction and a more cohesive pressing game, traits that Liverpool must embody if they are to sustain their title challenge. With the Premier League race shaping up to be one of the most exhilarating in recent memory, Liverpool's resolve and ability to bounce back from setbacks will be tested.

Liverpool face a quick turnaround as they take on Fulham away from home on April 21. Captain Virgil van Dijk said on Thursday that Liverpool have pick themselves up quickly and go all out in the remainder of the league season. "We won tonight and we kept a clean sheet, so there are so many more positives that we can take.

Impact sub halting progress of half allrounders: Zaheer Khan backs Rohit Sharma's claim

New Delhi. After Rohit Sharma, former India cricketer Zaheer Khan also expressed concerns about the Impact Player Rule, highlighting its potential to hinder the development of all-rounders. Rohit's critique has sparked discussions about its implications for team composition and player development. Zaheer raised concerns about the Impact Player Rule, emphasizing the need for stakeholders to address the issue. He expressed worry that the rule might lead to teams having only partial all-rounders rather than complete ones. "I completely agree it's debatable, little concern for sure. But we need to find a way on how to deal with it. In Impact Player rule you will find half all-rounders but not a



complete one," Zaheer said. The timing of the debate coincides with the impending selection of India's squad for the T20 World Cup. Amid much anticipation, the spotlight has fallen on Shivam Dube's potential inclusion as an all-rounder. While he has excelled with the bat, boasting an impressive tournament average of over 60 and scoring 242 runs in 6 matches, his prowess with the ball remains unproven. Despite being a spin-bowling all-rounder, he hasn't bowled in either the IPL 2024 or domestic cricket thus far, raising questions about his credentials in that aspect. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule

WHAT'S ROHIT'S TAKE ON IMPACT RULE? Rohit, while speaking on the Club Prairie Fire podcast, showed his concerns over the likes of Washington Sunder and Dube. He reckoned that cricket is an 11-player game and not 12, calling himself not a big fan of the rule. "It is not good for the all-rounders. Washington Sunder and Shivam Dube haven't bowled this season. This is a concerning aspect. You play international cricket with 11 players, but you are competing with 12 players in the IPL.

Julian Nagelsmann extends his contract with Germany, to remain coach till 2026

- Julian Nagelsmann, German football coach, signed a contract extension
- Julian Nagelsmann took over from Hansi Flick in September 2023
- Nagelsmann had an impressive coaching career before managing Germany



Berlin Julian Nagelsmann has solidified his position as the head coach of the Germany national team by signing a contract extension that will see him at the helm until the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup. This decision comes after Nagelsmann took over from Hansi Flick in September 2023, initially on a short-term deal that was set to expire after the European Championships in the summer of 2024.

Nagelsmann, at 36 years old, has already made a notable impact in his tenure as head coach,

securing victories in three out of six matches, including significant wins against France and the Netherlands in March. His leadership has not only brought about success on the field but has also ignited a sense of excitement and anticipation among fans and players alike about what lies ahead. Expressing his commitment and passion for the role, Nagelsmann stated, "This is a decision of the heart. It is a great honor to be able to train the national team and work with the best players in the

country." He emphasized the opportunity to inspire an entire nation through successful and passionate performances, highlighting the emotional victories against France and the Netherlands as particularly moving experiences. Looking forward, Nagelsmann expressed eagerness to lead the team in a successful home European Championship and to face the challenges of the World Cup with his coaching team. The decision to extend Nagelsmann's contract was met with unanimous approval at a Supervisory Board

and Shareholders' Meeting of the German Football Association (DFB), reflecting the confidence and trust placed in him to steer the national team towards future success.

Before taking the reins of the national team, Nagelsmann had an impressive coaching career, including a two-year tenure at RB Leipzig, where he led the team to the Champions League semi-finals for the first time in club history, and a three-year stint at Hoffenheim. Despite speculation and interest from top clubs across Europe, including Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, and Paris Saint-Germain, Nagelsmann's commitment to the German national team underscores his dedication to fostering talent and achieving greatness on the international stage. As Germany prepares for upcoming challenges, including the European Championship and the 2026 World Cup, Nagelsmann's leadership and vision will undoubtedly be pivotal in shaping the future of German football. With a blend of tactical acumen, passion for the game, and a deep connection with his players, Nagelsmann's extended tenure promises an exciting era for the national team, aiming to carry the enthusiasm of fans and the spirit of the nation forward.

Babar must ensure selection on merit: Ex-players question Imad Wasim's omission

Rawalpindi. Imad Wasim's omission has been questioned by former players after the all-rounder was left out of the Pakistan team for the first T20I against New Zealand, having come out of retirement to play international cricket again. Wasim and left-arm seamer Mohammad Amir came out of retirement ahead of the T20 World Cup in June this year after much convincing, but the spin-bowling all-rounder did not find a place in the eleven on Thursday. Only two balls were bowled as incessant rains washed out the first T20I in Rawalpindi, with Pakistan handing debuts to UAE-based off-spinner Usman Khan, middle-order batter and seamer Irfan Khan and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed. Former Test player Iqbal Qasim said, "(It) makes no sense to me, honestly, Imad should have played in place of Shadab Khan." Mohsin Khan, former player, head coach and chief selector said



players such as Imad and Amir must play all games to 'overcome rustiness'. "So much hue and cry over bringing back Imad and Amir, and they must get maximum matches to overcome their rustiness in international cricket," he said.

It is known that skipper Babar Azam and Imad do not share a cordial relationship. Babar is said to have left the Karachi Kings franchise

in the Pakistan Super League because of Imad, who later went on to play for Islamabad United. Former captain and team director Mohammad Hafeez had claimed that Imad had taken his international retirement after he felt hard done by the team management, including Babar. Would have made more cricket sense to have Imad who is a left arm spinner and bring more power to the lower batting order compared to Shadab," another former player said. However, cricket writer and analyst Omar Alavi believes Babar must take right decisions in his second stint. "Babar has got a second chance to create his own legacy as Pakistan captain but to do that he has to ensure selection on merit and situational requirement," Alavi said. Meanwhile, Pakistan will look to maximise their preparations for the T20 World Cup with series against New Zealand (ongoing), Ireland and England lined up.

Andrew Flintoff's teenage son Rocky hits pull shots like his father

New Delhi. Rocky Flintoff, son of celebrated cricketer Freddie Flintoff, put on an impressive batting display in a recent match between Lancashire 2nd XI and Durham 2nd XI. His performance, which included three grand sixes and a half-century, left spectators and commentators astounded. Spectators were treated to an unexpected display of talent from young Rocky at the recent match between Lancashire 2nd XI and Durham 2nd XI. His explosive batting, marked by three towering sixes and a well-deserved half-century, left fans and critics alike in awe. Yet, it wasn't just the runs he scored that turned heads; it was how he scored them. Rocky's pull shots, reminiscent of his father Andrew Flintoff's iconic style, were the talk of the



town. Played at the historic Old Trafford, the match had a familial flavor with Rocky's older brother Corey also representing Lancashire. However, it was Rocky's batting that stole the show, evoking memories of his father's illustrious career. His aggressive approach, particularly in executing those trademark pull shots, painted a vivid picture of Freddie's heyday on the cricket field. Rocky's performance quickly went viral, with a video showcasing his pull shots and big-hitting style making rounds on social media. Fans and commentators alike were left in awe, with many noting the "uncanny" resemblance between Rocky's and Freddie's batting. This moment of brilliance from Rocky not only highlighted his potential as a future cricket star but also reignited memories of his father's illustrious career. Rocky Flintoff made headlines, not just for his lineage but for his remarkable display of skill on the cricket field, showcasing an uncanny resemblance to his father's batting prowess. As Rocky Flintoff continues to develop his game, the cricket world watches with bated breath, hopeful that this young talent can carry forward his father's legacy while carving out his path in the sport. With such a promising start, there's no telling how far Rocky's talent and resemblance to his father will take him in the world of cricket.

Ashutosh Sharma is not mini-Surya: Suryakumar in awe of PBKS batter's masterclass

New Delhi. Star MI batter Suryakumar Yadav praised Ashutosh Sharma's resurgence as a six-hitting powerhouse for PBKS during IPL 2024. Ashutosh took the attack to the MI bowlers on Thursday when he hammered seven sixes and two fours to make 61 off a mere 28 balls, a knock which brought PBKS back from the brink after an early collapse.

During an interview at Jio Cinema, Suryakumar emphasized that Ashutosh is not a mini Surya, highlighting the PBKS batter's unique individuality. However, he acknowledged a shared mentality between them in their endeavor to be game-changers for their respective teams. "He's not mini-Surya, I think he made a fantastic display of his skill and in that moment, I think if you bat like this, he almost won his team the match. I also have the mindset to come and bat and be a game-changer for the team, that's what he tried today. I had a lot of fun watching him bat," Suryakumar told Jio Cinema. IPL 2024: PBKS vs MI Highlights The star MI batter played a match-winning knock of 78 runs from 53 balls to propel MI to a winning total of 192 runs. Suryakumar admitted that he would not have wanted Ashutosh to win the game, but did enjoy his batting. "I can't say I



wanted him to win the game for them, but the way he was batting, I really enjoyed watching it. I was relieved when Punjab's score was 14/4. I started to relax. As the game went forward, their lower order batted really well." IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule Despite PBKS facing a dire situation at 77 for 6, with MI bowlers dominating, Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma stepped up to the challenge. Shashank contributed 41 runs from 25 balls, while Ashutosh played a crucial role in almost bringing PBKS to a run-a-ball equation. Ashutosh's fearless hitting rattled all bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, the

current purple cap holder, whom he swept for a six. However, after Ashutosh's dismissal in the 18th over, PBKS faltered, ultimately losing the match by 9 runs.

ASHUTOSH-THE FIGHTER FOR PBKS

Suryakumar reveals that he has been in touch with Ashutosh and Shashank ever since their batting heroics against GT.

"When he played his first knock against the Gujarat Titans, it was the first time I messaged him, Shashank Singh and Ashutosh both, there they had won the match from a similar situation. I speak to both of them regularly. I have seen their mindset and work ethic, which is brilliant. I hope both of them keep playing like this and not change their game." Ashutosh emerged as the key player for PBKS, showcasing his resilience with a quickfire 31 off 17 balls against GT, helping secure a crucial win with 50 runs required off 27 balls. In another match, he combined forces with Shashank to contribute 33 runs off 15 balls against SRH. Despite their valiant effort, the target proved too daunting, as PBKS fell short by just 2 runs with 69 needed from 27 balls.

Sir, beat LSG': MS Dhoni fever grips Lucknow, fans flaunt love for CSK star

IPL 2024, LSG vs CSK: Fans in Lucknow flaunted their love for MS Dhoni with one even urging the former captain to orchestrate the home team's defeat on Friday. The tickets for the clash at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium were sold out.

New Delhi, Lucknow has been gripped by MS Dhoni mania. Ahead of the IPL 2024 match between LSG and CSK, fans in the capital city of Uttar Pradesh welcomed the World Cup-winning former captain, flaunting their love for him. In a video shared by IPL on the matchday, fans can be seen welcoming MS Dhoni at the airport with a huge cheer and reminiscing their favourite memory of the superstar cricketer.

In the video, a taxi driver expressed his love for MS Dhoni and talked up the hospitality that the city offers to its guests. He even urges Dhoni to orchestrate CSK's victory against the home side on Friday. Another fan was seen showing a throwback photo -- a selfie that he managed to click with the Super Kings wicketkeeper 10 years ago at the airport. One fan was unable to control his tears when he expressed his love for the star cricketer. "Lucknow welcomes MS Dhoni with open arms. Please come sir, we welcome you. Lucknow is famous for its hospitality. Please come and beat us respectfully. Dhoni is the backbone of Indian cricket and loving him is our duty. We all love MS Dhoni," the fan said. Sanjeev Agarwal, chief curator of the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in Lucknow, also spoke about how MS Dhoni has always been approachable and



spent time with the groundstaff in the past. The tickets for the LSG's home match against the Super Kings sold like hotcakes as the franchise announced that it was a sell-out crowd for Friday on the eve of the contest. MS Dhoni was the centre of attraction during CSK's training sessions in the lead-up to the big-ticket match in Lucknow. LSG all-rounder Marcus Stoinis also spoke about the craze for MS Dhoni across the

country, saying he expects good support for the Super Kings, especially MS Dhoni. Stoinis used wordplay and hoped there would be chants of "MS, MS" at their home ground. "The crowd will be loud, that's great. At least half of them (cheer) for us. Half of them for MS. It's all part of the IPL and the experience and how good it is to play in this competition. We prepare similarly for every team," Marcus Stoinis said. Dhoni is yet to be dismissed in IPL 2024. The former CSK captain is heading into the match in Lucknow on the back of match-winning 4-ball 20 against arch-rivals MI in IPL 2024 Clasico. "But, it's a great part of playing cricket here. I have massive respect for MS and to watch him change his game over the last couple of years. And this year, walking into face with only a couple of balls and smashing big sixes. Enjoying a new leader in their team. I have respect for every player in here, especially for him. He deserves the attention he gets," Stoinis said.



Priyanka Mohan

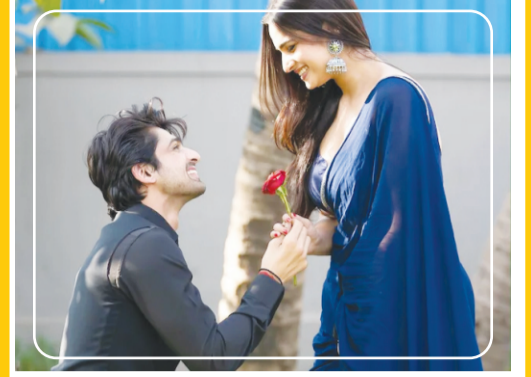
Glows Like Sunshine In Her Golden-hued Mini Dress



Priyanka Arul Mohan is a prominent South cinema actress, working mainly in the Tamil and Telugu language releases. The young actress is not only known for her acting skills but is also a popular name on social media, where she amassed fame through sharing her glamorous looks and fits. The actress recently shared a new series of images, looking radiant as ever. Priyanka is an active user of social media frequently posting her awe-inspiring fits. Taking to her official Instagram handle, the actress shared a new photoshoot, channelling her inner goddess of gold. In the photos shared, Priyanka shows off her delicate features, highlighted by her side pose. She is seen wearing a shiny, golden-hued mini dress with thin straps, embroidered with moon-shaped sequins. The outfit is accessorised with round earrings, while she has opted for a kohl eye makeup look, leaving her hair open. The post's caption rightfully matches the post's vibe, "24k magic in the air," referencing a lyric from the 2018 hit single by Bruno Mars.

Fans react to the actress's mesmerising look in the comment section. The first user wrote, "Those eyes just melting me!!" A second user shared, "The magic is you." And a third user stated, "Too hot summer temperatures Increased." He post has been liked more than 500,000 times since it was shared on the platform. Priyanka Arul Mohan debuted in the film industry with the Kannada film Ondh Kathe Hella, which was released in 2019. Since then, she has starred in Tamil and Telugu language films like Nani's Gang Leader, Etharkkum Thunindhavan, Don, Tik Tok and Sreekaram. She was last seen in Captain Millier, released earlier this year. Directed by Arun Matheswaran, the cast of the film included Dhanush, Shiva Rajkumar, Aditi Balan and Sundeeep Kishan. It is produced by Sendhil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan under the banner of Sathya Jyothi Films. Some of Priyanka's upcoming projects include They Call Him OG, Saripodhaa Sanivaaram and Brother.

Abhishek Kumar REACTS To Dating Rumours With Ayesha Khan: 'Main Toh Bahut Khush Hota Hu...'



For a long time now, Abhishek Kumar is being linked to his Bigg Boss 17 contestant Ayesha Khan. However, the former Udaariyaan actor has finally clarified that their dating rumours do not impact them. Abhishek was recently speaking to E-Times when he revealed that he does not even discuss such rumours with Ayesha. "Main toh bahut khush hota hoon...mere jitne bhi naam judte hain main khush hota hoon. Accha iske saath iske bhi saath Waah Kya baat hai (I am very happy... whenever my name is associated with anyone, I feel happy (laughs)). We don't even discuss these rumours," Abhishek joked. The 26-year-old actor further shared that Ayesha is not just a friend but "family" for him. "My parents are more connected to Ayesha than me. My mom keeps showing me screenshots of their conversations. I enjoy this linkup rumours," he added.

Abhishek was also joined by Ayesha during the interview who also made it clear that dating rumours do not affect their relationship. Ayesha further stated that whenever she would date anybody, she would happily reveal it. "No it doesn't affect our bond, not at all. The kind of person I'm, if I like someone or I want to be in a relationship, I would have been very vocal about it. I would never hide it. Abhishek and I are very good friends. We respect each other and have that bond. Not in my wildest dreams I've ever thought about it. I'm very close to this family, especially his mother. I spoke to her just a day ago and she was also joking how people start linking up whenever there's a new project," she shared. Abhishek Kumar and Ayesha Khan met for the first time inside the Bigg Boss 17 house. Their respective exes, Isha Malviya and Munawar Faruqui were also in the show. Abhishek and Ayesha were recently seen together in a music video titled Khali Botal. The video was released on YouTube on Tuesday (April 16) and is being widely loved by all.

Director Bhaurao Nanasaheb Karhade Announces New Marathi Film Titled Fakira



Marathi filmmaker Bhaurao Nanasaheb Karhade, known for directing box-office hits like TDM, Baban, and Khwada, is back with another film titled Fakira. Bhaurao unveiled the poster of this film on Instagram on April 15, 2024, which shows a warrior riding on a horse with his face covered against the backdrop of a desert. The poster also shows a few weapons lying nearby and also the Union Jack flag, a symbol of the various British colonies across the world. Journalist Mandar Joshi has penned the screenplay and dialogues of the film. Fakira boasts of a stellar star cast starring Nana Patekar, Sayaji Shinde, Prasad Oak, and others.

Bhaurao's fans showered the comment section with compliments and opined that they could expect another hit film from him after TDM, Baban and Khwada. The anticipation for Fakira has increased as it is based on the Marathi novel Fakira by Anna Bhau Sathe. Anna Bhau Sathe is counted as one of the respected names in the field of Marathi literature. For those who have not read the novel, it portrays the miseries faced by society, the extreme oppression of British rule, and the fighter 'Fakira' who rebelled against everyone. The TDM director is every bit excited about this film and talked about it in an interview with a portal. He said that if luck favours you, you can create a great piece of art. Bhaurao said that by sheer luck, he got the fortune of creating the masterpiece Fakira. He added that it takes a lot of courage to direct a film on subjects like these. In the interview, other actors like Nagesh Bhosle were also present and he wished the makers for the commercial success of the film well. He also appreciated the filmmaker for proceeding ahead with a film based on such a subject. Actor Kamlesh Sawant was present as well and he expressed his happiness to be a part of a great project. Fakira is reported to hit the cinema halls in 2025. Besides this film, Bhaurao will co-direct the project Hyderabad Custody along with the filmmaker Bhausaheb Shinde. Atisha Naik, Megha Dhade, and others have acted in this film.

Kriti Kharbanda

Says Hubby Pulkit Samrat 'Carries Sanitary Pads At All Times'; Gets Brutally Trolled

Weeks after Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat tied the knot, an old video of the actress on social media in which she is seen revealing that her husband always carries tampons and sanitary pads with him in his bag. Kriti praised Pulkit for the same and argued that she feels "blessed" to be around such men in her life. "The first time I met Pulkit, we were not even friends, we were co-stars and I remember I got my period. He is someone who actually carries tampons and sanitary pads in his bag at all times. He has it at all times. He has got so many cousins and sisters and all and I found that extremely attractive quality. This is something I noticed about him even before we started dating. I am very blessed with the right kind of men around me," Kriti said. Watch the video here:



However, Kriti Kharbanda's comment has sparked a discussion on social media. While some are calling it "cringe", others argue that Pulkit is a "true green flag". "Either she is lying or Pulkit uses it as a tool to flirt/break ice/impress women," one of the users wrote. "I don't know if it's green flag or weird.. I am so confused because if I guy offers me a sanitary product from his bag I might have a lot of questions," added another. "It's sweet to do so for your wife or gf," a third comment read. One of the fans praised Pulkit for being an inspiration and added, "That's a sweet gesture." Pulkit Samrat and Kriti Kharbanda met for the first time on the sets of the 2019 action-comedy

Pagalpanti and fell in love with each other. They tied the knot on March 15 this year. Sharing their wedding pictures on her Instagram handle, Kriti had written, "From the deep blue sky, To the morning dew. Through the low and the high, It's only you. From the start to the end, In every now and every then, When my heart beats differently, It's got to be you. Constantly, Consistently, Continually, You!"

