

Air Surcharges if applicable
Delivery Charges applicable

US-Japan rapport has strategic,
economic lessons for India

World wrestling body threatens to
reimpose ban on WFI if
ad-hoc committee is brought back

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

King Charles to resume public duties next week as cancer treatment progresses

London Britain's King Charles will return to public duties next week for the first time since being diagnosed with cancer as he makes good progress following treatment and a period of recuperation, Buckingham Palace said on Friday. In February, the palace revealed that the 75-year-old king had been diagnosed with an unspecified form of cancer detected in tests after a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate. Although Charles continued with official state business, the diagnosis led him to postpone public engagements to begin treatment and rest. His majesty's treatment programme will continue, but doctors are sufficiently pleased with the progress made so far that the king is now able to resume a number of public-facing duties," a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said. "His majesty is greatly encouraged to be resuming some public-facing duties and very grateful to his medical team for their continued care and expertise. "Although it was too early to say how much longer his cancer treatment would last, the spokesperson said his doctors were "very encouraged by the progress made so far and remain positive about the king's continued recovery". No further details about his condition or his treatment were given, in line with the usual stance on medical privacy. While pictured and filmed carrying out some official duties in private, Charles's only public appearance came last month when he greeted well-wishers in an impromptu walkabout after an Easter church service in Windsor, raising hopes that his health was improving. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak responded to the news of the king's return to public duties, saying on social media site X: "Brilliant news to end the week!"

JAPANESE EMPEROR VISIT

To mark his return, Charles and his wife Queen Camilla will visit a cancer treatment centre in London next Tuesday, the palace said. It was also confirmed that the Japanese Emperor Naruhito and his wife, Empress Masako, would pay a state visit in late June. However, Charles will not carry out his usual summer programme and his plans will be crafted in consultation with his medical team to minimise risks to recovery, the palace said.

Columbia University president under fire for crackdown on pro-Palestine stir

New York. Columbia's embattled president came under renewed pressure on Friday as a university oversight panel sharply criticised her administration for clamping down on a pro-Palestinian protest, saying the decision ran "contrary to the norms and traditions" of the Ivy League school. President Nemat Minouche Shafik has faced an outcry from many students, faculty and outside observers for summoning New York police to campus on April 18 to dismantle an encampment of tents set up by protesters against Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. After a two-hour meeting on Friday, the Columbia University Senate approved a resolution asserting that Shafik's administration had undermined academic freedom and disregarded the privacy and due process rights of students and faculty members by calling in the police and shutting down the protest. "The decision ... has raised serious concerns about the administration's respect for shared governance and transparency in the university decision-making process," it said.

The senate, composed mostly of faculty members and other staff, plus a few students, did not specifically name Shafik in its resolution, avoiding harsher wording that could have put her job in greater jeopardy.

There was no immediate response to the resolution from Shafik or the university. Police arrested more than 100 people that day and removed the tents from the main lawn of the school's Manhattan campus, but the protesters quickly returned and set up tents again, narrowing Columbia's options on dismantling it. Since then, hundreds of protesters have been arrested at schools from California to Boston as students set up encampments similar to the one at Columbia, demanding that their schools divest from companies involved in Israel's military. Like-minded protests against Israel's actions have spread overseas, as well, with tensions flaring on Friday in front of the prestigious Sciences Po university in Paris as pro-Israeli protesters came to challenge pro-Palestinian students occupying the building. Police had to move in to keep the two sides apart.

Ex-Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif set to retake helm of PML-N amidst internal strife

LAHORE. Pakistan's three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is all set to retake the helm of the ruling PML-N next month to guide the party amid internal strife, seven years after he relinquished the post after being disqualified by the apex court. Nawaz, 74, will be elected president of the ruling party on May 11 in a meeting of the party leadership, a senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader told PTL. In 2017, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disqualified Nawaz as premier and party president for his alleged corruption in cases related to the Panama Papers revelations about his illegal wealth stashed abroad. He relinquished his position within the party following his disqualification, which also led to his departure from the prime minister's office. PML-N Punjab president Rana Sanaullah told a press conference that a decision to make Nawaz the president of the party again was taken at a party meeting on Friday. "A resolution was passed at the party meeting today to make the elder Sharif PML-N president to undo the injustice meted out to him (Nawaz) in 2017 by the Supreme Court," Sanaullah, a former interior minister, said. The party will request Nawaz on his return from China to accept the president's office of the party. Nawaz is currently on a five-day private visit to China. "Nawaz Sharif was removed from the party president's office through a conspiracy. Now Nawaz has been acquitted in all (corruption) cases, he should again take up the party's reins," Sanaullah said and added the party would be reorganised under his (Nawaz's) leadership. Sanaullah's announcement comes amidst internal tensions within the ruling party in Punjab and at the federal level, The Express Tribune newspaper said.

'US has evidence of China's interference in elections': Antony Blinken

Secretary of State Blinken has asserted evidence of China's election interference and has reaffirmed the US's commitment to combat it while addressing pro-Palestinian protests and expressing concerns over China's support for Russia.



World The United States has evidence of China's attempts to influence the upcoming US presidential elections, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said. Blinken said this comes after President Joe Biden gave a message to Chinese President Xi Jinping, asking him not to interfere with the country's elections, to which the latter agreed. Blinken's remarks came during an interview with CNN at the close of a three-day trip to China, where the top American diplomat spent hours meeting with top Chinese officials, including

Xi. On being asked if China was violating Xi's commitment to Biden so far, Blinken said, "We have seen, generally speaking, evidence of attempts to influence and arguably interfere, and we want to make sure that that's cut off as quickly as possible." "Any interference by China in our election is something that we're looking very carefully at and is totally unacceptable to us, so I wanted to make sure that they heard that message again," Blinken said. The US Secretary of State also said there was concern about China and other countries playing on existing

social divisions in the US in influence campaigns. Beijing has repeatedly said it does not interfere in US elections. Meanwhile, China or actors that are believed to be affiliated with Beijing have been accused of political interference in other countries, such as Canada. B L I N K E N D E F E N D S P R O - P A L E S T I N I A N P R O T E S T S Speaking about the ongoing pro-Palestinian protests, the US Secretary of State acknowledged instances of antisemitism, but said "protests in and of themselves are not antisemitic."

Defending the American right to protest, Blinken said, "What we're also seeing is people, young people, people from different walks of life, who do feel very passionately, who've had very strong emotions about (the conflict)."

"We've certainly seen instances where that has clearly veered from a totally legitimate expression of views and beliefs, to in some instances, yes, clear expressions of antisemitism," he said.

During the conversation, Blinken also refuted reports claiming the US would stop sending weaponry to Israel, and said, "No, we are focused on what's in the interests of the United States." "How do we best reflect both our interests and our values in our foreign policy across the board, whether that's with Israel, or with any anyone else," he asked.

WHAT BLINKEN SAID ON RUSSIA

Blinken also expressed his concerns about China's support for Russia, amid its war with Ukraine. He also said his country will take action, in addition to existing sanctions, on more than 100 Chinese entities and individuals, if such support continues. "What we said to China is this—we're going to take actions we already have, and if it doesn't stop.

India-bound oil tanker hit by Houthi missiles in Red Sea attack

Cairo/ Los Angeles Yemen's Houthi said on Saturday their missiles hit the Andromeda Star oil tanker in the Red Sea, as they continue attacking commercial ships in the area in a show of support for Palestinians fighting Israel in the Gaza war. US Central Command confirmed that Iran-backed Houthi launched three anti-ship ballistic missiles into the Red Sea from Yemen, causing minor damage to the Andromeda Star. The tanker was engaged in Russia-linked trade and was en route from Russia's Primorsk to India's Vadinar. The ship's master reported damage to the vessel, British maritime security firm Ambrey said.



A missile landed in the vicinity of a second vessel, the MV Maisha, but it was not damaged, US Central

Command said on social media site X. Houthi spokesman Yahya Sarea said the Panama-flagged Andromeda Star was British-owned, but shipping data shows it was recently sold, according to LSEG data and Ambrey. Its current owner is Seychelles-registered. Iran-aligned Houthi militants have launched repeated drone and missile

strikes in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait and Gulf of Aden since November, forcing shippers to re-route cargo to longer and more expensive journeys around southern Africa and stoking fears the Israel-Hamas war could spread and destabilise the Middle East. The attack on the Andromeda Star comes after a brief pause in the Houthi's campaign that targets ships with ties to Israel, the United States and Britain. The USS Dwight D Eisenhower aircraft carrier sailed out of the Red Sea via the Suez Canal on Friday after assisting a US-led coalition to protect commercial shipping. The Houthi on Friday said they downed an American MQ-9 drone in the airspace of Yemen's Saada province.

US sanctions over dozen firms, including 3 from India, for ties with Iran

Washington. The US slapped on Thursday sanctions on over a dozen companies, individuals and vessels, including three from India, for facilitating illicit trade and UAV transfers on behalf of the Iranian military. The US Department of Treasury said these companies, individuals and vessels have played a central role in facilitating and financing the clandestine sale of Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to Russia's war in Ukraine.

While Sahara Thunder has been identified as the main front company that oversees Iran's commercial activities in support of these efforts, the three India-based companies to have been slapped with sanctions for supporting Sahara Thunder are Zen Shipping, Port India Private Limited, and Sea Ar Ship Management (OPC) Private Limited. Iranian military entity Sahara Thunder relies on a vast shipping network involved in the sale and shipment of Iranian commodities on behalf of Iran's Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAF) to multiple jurisdictions including the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, and Venezuela, the Treasury said. "Sahara Thunder has entered into time-charter contracts with India-based Zen Shipping and Port India Private Limited for the Cook Islands-flagged vessel CHEM (IMO 9240914), which is managed and operated by UAE-based Safe Seas Ship Management FZE," it said. "Sahara Thunder has used the CHEM to conduct multiple shipments of commodities since 2022. Iran-based Arsang Safe Trading Co. has provided ship management services in support of several Sahara Thunder-related shipments, including those by the CHEM," the Treasury said. According to the Treasury, Iran-based Asia Marine Crown Agency has served as the port agent in Bandar Abbas, Iran supporting several Sahara Thunder shipments. "India-based Sea Art Ship Management (OPC) Private Limited and UAE-based company Trans Gulf Agency LLC have worked together to provide ship management services in support of Sahara Thunder. The UAE and Iran-based Coral Trading EST. have purchased Iranian commodities from Sahara Thunder," it said. "Iran's Ministry of Defence continues to destabilise the region and world with its support to Russia's war in Ukraine, unprecedented attack on Israel, and proliferation of UAVs and other dangerous military hardware to terrorist proxies," said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson. "The US, in close coordination with our British and Canadian partners, will continue to use all means available to combat those who would finance Iran's destabilising activities," he said.

US to provide Patriot missiles to Ukraine as part of \$6 billion aid package

Washington. The US will provide Ukraine with additional Patriot missiles for its air defense systems as part of a massive \$6 billion additional aid package, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced Friday. The missiles will be used to replenish previously supplied Patriot systems. The package also includes more munitions for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, or NASAMS, and additional gear to integrate Western air defense launchers, missiles and radars into Ukraine's existing weaponry, much of which still dates back to the Soviet era. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed the need for Patriots early Friday with the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, a coalition of about 50 countries gathering virtually in a Pentagon-led meeting. The meeting fell on the second anniversary of the group, which Austin said has "moved heaven and earth" since April 2022 to source millions of rounds of ammunition,

rocket systems, armoured vehicles and even jets to help Ukraine rebuff Russia's invasion. Zelenskyy said at least seven Patriot systems are needed to protect Ukrainian cities. "We urgently need Patriot systems and missiles for them," Zelenskyy said. "This is what can and should save lives right now." At a Pentagon press conference following the meeting, Austin said the US was working with allies to resource additional Patriot systems but did not commit to sending more US versions. He said he has been speaking one-on-one with a number of his European counterparts in recent days to hash out this issue and others.

"It's not just Patriots that they need, they need other types of systems and interceptors as well," Austin said. "I would caution us all in terms of making Patriot the silver bullet." Austin said he is asking allied nations to "accept a little bit more risk" as they consider what weapons to send to Ukraine. A number of nations have expressed

some reluctance to send Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine because most don't have very many and they believe they need them for their own defense. US officials said the aid package will be funded through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which pays for longer-term contracts with the defense industry and means that it could take many months or years for the weapons to arrive. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public. The new funding — the largest tranche of USAI aid sent to date — also includes High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, as well as Switchblade and Puma drones, counter drone systems and artillery. The Ukraine Defense Contact Group has been meeting about monthly for the past two years and is the primary forum for weapons contributions to Kyiv for the war. Friday's meeting follows the White House decision earlier this week to approve the delivery.

Hamas says it received Israel's response to ceasefire proposal

Hamas said it had received on Saturday Israel's official response to its latest ceasefire proposal and will study it before submitting its reply, the group's deputy Gaza chief said in a statement.



World Hamas said it had received on Saturday Israel's official response to its latest ceasefire proposal and will study it before submitting its reply, the group's deputy Gaza chief said in a statement. "Hamas has received today the official response of the Zionist occupation to the proposal presented to the Egyptian and the Qatari mediators on April 13," Khalil Al-Hayya, who is currently based in Qatar, said in a statement published by the group. After more than six months of war with Israel in Gaza, the negotiations remain deadlocked, with Hamas sticking to its demands that any agreement must end the war. An Egyptian delegation visited Israel

for discussion with Israeli officials on Friday, looking for a way to restart talks to end the conflict and return remaining hostages taken when Hamas fighters stormed into Israeli towns on October 7, an official briefed on the meetings said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel had no new proposals to make, although it was

willing to consider a limited truce in which 33 hostages would be released by Hamas, instead of the 40 previously under discussion. On Thursday, the United States and 17 other countries appealed to Hamas to release all of its hostages as a pathway to end the crisis. Hamas has vowed not to relent to international pressure, but in a statement

it issued on Friday it said it was "open to any ideas or proposals that take into account the needs and rights of our people". However, it stuck to its key demands that Israel has rejected, and criticised the joint statement issued by the US and others for not calling for a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Friday he saw fresh momentum in talks to end the war and return the remaining hostages.

Citing two Israeli officials, Axios reported that Israel told the Egyptian mediators on Friday that it was ready to give hostage negotiations "one last chance" to reach a deal with Hamas before moving forward with an invasion of Rafah, the last refuge for around a million Palestinians who fled Israeli forces further north in Gaza earlier in the war. Meanwhile, in Rafah, Palestinian health officials said an Israeli air strike on a house killed at least five people and wounded others.

amas fighters stormed into Israeli towns on October 7, killing 1,200 people and capturing 253 hostages. Israel has sworn to annihilate Hamas in an onslaught that has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians.

Coal India Limited Conducts Three-Day Mining Contracts Program for Capacity Building

RNS I Ranchi: Coal India Limited, following the directives of the Ministry of Coal, recently concluded a comprehensive three-day program on Mining Contracts at the Indian Institute of Coal Management (IICM) from April 24-26, 2024.

This initiative was part of the 'Marathon Training for Capacity Building' series, primarily targeting executives from the Mining and CMC divisions of various Coal India Limited subsidiaries. The program commenced with a virtual inauguration by Dr. B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) and CMD of CCL (Central Coalfields Limited). A notable highlight was the participation of Brajesh Kumar Tripathy, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Coal India Limited, who delivered a motivational speech during the valedictory session, inspiring the participants. Distinguished attendees in-



cluded Dr. Kamakshi Raman, Executive Director of IICM; T.K. Mishra, Advisor (Materials & Contracts) at Coal India Limited; Girish G., General Manager (Contracts Management Cell) at Coal India Limited; and N K Jha, General Manager (Environment & Mines) at IICM. Also present were IICM faculties and Management

Trainees of the TSDP program. In his address, Brajesh Kumar Tripathy underscored the pivotal role of such training programs in enhancing capacity building. He emphasized that these efforts would not only enhance the value of Coal India Ltd but also transform it into a value-based entity, echoing sentiments expressed by the

Chairman of CIL in his Republic Day Speech. Tripathy accentuated the virtues of honesty, integrity, and a strong sense of belonging to the company, substantiating his points with several examples and anecdotes. He commended the Executive Director and the entire team at IICM for the successful organization of the program.

Science for Society, Bokaro to Mark 2024 as "Scientific Awareness Year"



RNS I Bokaro: Science for Society, Bokaro convened a significant meeting on Friday, chaired by Deepak Rai, Chief General Manager (CRM-3) of BSL and President of Science for Society, Bokaro. Rai announced that 2024 will be celebrated as Scientific Awareness Year in accordance with the directives of the All India People's Science Network. A series of scientific activities will be conducted, including programs on energy conservation, environmental quizzes, combating superstitions, children's science congress, child rights con-

gress, and other scientific initiatives across Bokaro district. Rajendra Kumar, General Secretary of Science for Society, Bokaro, highlighted the achievements of the previous year and outlined plans for various scientific programs in Bokaro and the entire state as per the scientific calendar. SK Rai, Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Shashank Shekhar, and Parichay Bhattacharya also attended the meeting, emphasizing the importance of promoting scientific awareness and education in the region.

Medica Hospital Ranchi Saves Life of a youth with Complex Heart Surgery



RNS I Ranchi: Medica Hospital in Ranchi achieved a remarkable feat by saving the life of a 27-year-old man, Ajay Kumar, through a successful operation for a complex heart disease. Ajay Kumar's condition was critical as his aorta had expanded from the normal length of 2 cm to a dangerous 10 cm, posing a significant risk of rupture at any moment. Despite the complexity of the case, Medica Hospital rose to the challenge when other hospitals in Ranchi declined to perform the surgery. Dr. Sunil Kumar, Cardiac Surgeon at Medica Hospital, not only diagnosed the condition accurately but also decided to replace the aortic valve with a valved graft using the Battelle procedure, known for its complexity. Anil Kumar, AVP at Medica, mentioned that considering the patient's financial constraints, the hospital undertook the responsibility of treatment without imposing any financial burden. This operation marked the first successful heart surgery of its kind in Jharkhand under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, highlighting Medica Hospital's commitment to providing quality healthcare to all. Ajay Kumar was discharged from the hospital after a week of attentive care, and he is now in good health. This success underscores Medica Hospital's excellence in the medical field and its ongoing efforts to ensure healthcare accessibility for all sections of society.

DAV Gua Hosts Science Quiz Competition on Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman Day



RNS I Gua: On the occasion of Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman Day, DAV Public School in Gua organized a science quiz competition to commemorate the birth anniversary of the renowned scientist, who was honored with the Bharat Ratna and the Lenin Peace Prize. The event aimed to promote scientific consciousness among students and was held under the chairmanship of Principal Usha Rai. The competition saw Shradhanand Sadan securing the first position with 35 marks, followed by Vivekananda Sadan in second place with 30 marks, and Aurobindo Sadan

in third place with 25 marks. Principal Usha Rai emphasized the importance of science as systematic knowledge obtained through thought, observation, study, and experiment. She highlighted DAV's commitment to increasing awareness about knowledge and science among children. The event also included a speech by biology teacher Anjan Sen, who discussed the life and achievements of Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman. Chemistry teacher Anirudh Dutta provided details about the organized program to the students. The students' performances were commendable, with

notable contributions from Shweta Karmakar, Mohamad Afan, Pooja Gupta, Manya Shree, Sakshi Gudiya, Rajveer Thapa, Pawan Kumar, Alia Parveen, Om, and Robin. Senior teacher PK Acharya encouraged students to cultivate curiosity towards science. The program's coordination involved science teachers such as Pushpajali Nayak, Ranjana Prasad, and associate teachers Rajan Upadhyay, Jaymangal Sao, Jyoti Sinha, and SK Pandey. Teacher SB Tiwari, in his vote of thanks, highlighted the significant role of science in streamlining human life. The students' performances were commendable, with

"Bal Vatika" hosts open talent show 'Sparking Stars' at DAV-6



RNS I Bokaro: Bal Vatika, an initiative by DAV-6, hosted an open talent show, "Sparking Stars" competition, on Saturday, April 27th, at DAV Public School Sector-6, Bokaro. The event featured various competitions for young children, aged three to five years, from several district schools. The event commenced with a lamp lighting ceremony and a performance of the DAV song by Principal Brij Mohan Lal Das and parents. Speaking at the event, Principal Das emphasized DAV's commitment to promoting moral values and the development of language skills

through games at the foundation stage. In line with the National Education Policy, DAV Public School Sector 6 will introduce Bal Vatika courses in the new session to provide basic and social knowledge to young children. This initiative aims to develop their social skills and knowledge for the future. The event also featured performances by senior students, including welcome songs and Vedic mantras. Aradhana, the Kindergarten's in-charge, explained the pre-nursery curriculum, while Sparking Stars organized an open talent hunt

competition under the direction of Bhavna Ghale. Various games and activities were organized, including a balloon game, which saw enthusiastic participation from both children and parents. All participants were rewarded for their efforts. The event concluded with a peace lesson, with Neha managing the stage and Bhavna Ghale delivering the vote of thanks. The competition was attended by several dignitaries and teachers, including Nagendra Prasad, Prashant Kumar, and others, who witnessed the young talents shine bright at the event.

DAV-6 students excels in JEE Main



RNS I Bokaro: students of DAV Sector-6 showcased their exceptional talent by achieving success in the second phase of the JEE Main examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, at DAV Public School, Sector 6. The successful students, Abhas Kumar Vardhan, Rishabh Kumar, and Rahul Kumar, have demonstrated their promise and dedication to their studies. Principal Brijmohan Lal Das congratulated the three students on their achievements and wished them a bright future. He emphasized that success is the result of hard work and dedication. The principal highlighted the accomplishments of Abhas Kumar Vardhan, Rishabh Kumar, and Rahul Kumar, and honored them for their outstanding performance.

MSP to hold Blood Donation Camp today

RNS I Bokaro: Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, in collaboration with BGH, is set to host a one-day blood donation camp at Mithila Academy Public School, Sector 4 on Sunday. The event aims to collect blood donations starting at 9 am. Neeraj Chaudhary, General Secretary of the Council, urged members of the community to participate in large numbers, emphasizing that blood donation is akin to giving the gift of life. He stressed the importance of donating blood to ensure an adequate supply for those in need. The Mithila Cultural Council, known for its commitment to cultural activities, is equally dedicated to social welfare. Chaudhary noted the success of a previous blood donation camp organized by the Council in 2023, highlighting the ongoing efforts to combine cultural pursuits with meaningful social contributions.

DLSA, Dhanbad holds Blood Donation Camp



RNS I Dhanbad: District Legal Services Authority, Dhanbad organized a blood donation camp on Saturday, which saw enthusiastic participation from all officers. Inaugurating the camp, the Principal District Service Authority emphasized the importance of blood donation, calling it the best donation as it helps those in need. The Chief Justice highlighted that donating blood can be a life-saving act, often referred to as Mahadan. The camp aimed to raise awareness globally about safe and secure blood donation practices. A total of 6 units of blood were donated during the camp, contributing to the cause of human service. The event also served as an encouragement for everyone to consider donating blood for the benefit of others.

1,500 Sikhs, including DSGNC members, join BJP

RNS I New Delhi: A significant number of Sikhs, including members of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGNC), have reportedly joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Reports indicate that around 1,500 Sikhs joined the party during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. During the joining event, BJP president J.P. Nadda emphasized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts towards the welfare of the Sikh community. He highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the government to support the minority community.

Jharkhand School Innovation Challenge 2024 Kicks Off at IIT (ISM) to Foster Student Creativity

RNS I Dhanbad: The Jharkhand School Innovation Challenge (JH-SIC) 2024, the largest innovation contest in Jharkhand for school students, commenced at IIT (ISM) with registrations open to students from Class VII to XII statewide. The event, hosted by the Naresh Vashisht Center for Tinkering and Innovation (NVCTI), aims to foster creativity and innovation among students. This year's JH-SIC focuses on the themes of Sustainable Development Goals (for Class VII to X) and Cyber Physical Systems (for Class XI and XII). The registration deadline is May 10, with idea submissions due by May 15. Shortlisted teams will be announced on May 20, followed by presentations on May 25. Winners of the presentation round will be revealed on May 26, leading to the proto-



type presentation on July 22. The results for the prototype presentation round will be announced on July 24, with on-site mentoring for selected teams scheduled from August 5-9. The grand finale is set for August 10. The competition enhances students' critical thinking,

problem-solving, and analytical skills, according to Prof. Ajit Kumar, Faculty in Charge (ISD). It provides a platform for students to showcase their innovative ideas to a diverse audience, including educators, industry professionals, and policymakers. Students are encouraged to

collaborate in teams of up to three members, promoting teamwork and communication skills. Schools can register teams on the JH-SIC 2024 portal, with each school allowed a maximum of two ideas or teams, one each for the junior and senior categories.

Deputy Director of Mine Safety Conducts Inspection at SAIL Gua Mine, Emphasizes Safety and Production Enhancements

RNS I Gua: Deputy Director of Mine Safety, R. Sudhir, recently conducted a comprehensive inspection of the SAIL Gua mine area, overseeing various aspects of operations and safety compliance. The inspection, chaired by Kamal Bhaskar, Chief General Manager (Mining) of SAIL Gua, focused on assessing the production process, facilities, and adherence to safety regulations.

portance of health, environment, and safety in mining operations. He commended the use of modern machinery and systems at SAIL Gua Mines. During the meeting, various issues were discussed, and directives were issued to enhance safety standards at the mines. Sudhir also shared insightful and inspirational thoughts with the employees present.

Following the inspection, a meeting was convened at the SAIL Gua HRD building, led by R. Sudhir and Kamal Bhaskar, to brief officials and workers on training and mining-related information. Among those in attendance were SAIL Gua General Manager cum Mine Safety Team Chairman S.P. Das, along with several other officials. R. Sudhir highlighted the significance of the inspection, stressing the paramount im-

The program saw the participation of several officials, including Milan Nandi and Niranjan Chaudhary, who received guidance on boosting production capacity and safety in the mines. The Mine Safety Committee, workers, and officials were provided with valuable advice to improve safety and production in the mines. It is worth noting that just two days before this inspection, SAIL Gua Mines underwent scrutiny by Mr. S S Behera of DGMS Ranchi.

Jharkhand CEO Orders Probe into JMM's Helicopter Parking, BJP Raises Concerns

RNS I Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) K Ravi Kumar has directed the divisional commissioner to investigate the helicopter parking lot used by the ruling JMM party in Khelgaon. This action was prompted by a memorandum submitted by the BJP.



The BJP's memorandum raised questions about the need for alternative parking for electioneering helicopters once Ranchi gets an airport. It also sought details about the payment made by the JMM for parking electioneering choppers. The CEO received the memorandum from a BJP delegation, which included State Law Cell Convener

Sudhir Srivastava, Deputy Head of Judicial Affairs Prakash Jha, and Advocate Shiv Kumar Sharma. Sudhir Srivastava questioned the JMM's decision to park helicopters in Khelgaon, inquiring about the

frequency of flights and the purpose behind them. In its memorandum, the BJP expressed concerns that helicopters might be used to transport large amounts of election money. The party stated its intention to investigate the parking fees paid by the JMM and the recipients of these payments. Furthermore, the BJP alleged that JMM leaders flying directly to Khelgaon bypass security checks, as there is no CISF deputation to monitor individuals entering the area. The BJP emphasized the need to identify the authorities responsible for these actions.

Hemant Soren Denied Interim Bail, Unable to Attend Uncle's Funeral

RNS I Ranchi: The Special (ED) court in the area has denied former Chief Minister Hemant Soren's request for interim bail in a money laundering case related to a land scam. Consequently, Hemant Soren will not be able to attend his uncle's funeral. Hemant Soren had petitioned the court on Saturday for permission to attend his uncle's funeral and had also requested interim bail for 13 days. However, the court rejected his plea today. The deceased, Raja Ram



Soren, was the elder brother of JMM supreme Shibu Soren (Guru ji). He passed away on Saturday morning after battling an illness. Rajaram Soren resided in Ranchi.

Why Amritpal Singh can contest election, but Arvind Kejriwal can't vote

There are paradoxes in elections across the world. India, too, has its share. While the law allows Khalistani separatist Amritpal Singh to contest the Lok Sabha election, lakhs of undertrials like Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal can't even cast their votes.

New Delhi. Elections across the world have their share of paradoxes and anomalies. One such paradox has surfaced in India during the 2024 Lok Sabha election. It is about two men locked up in two different jails, 2,300 km away. 'Waris Punjab De' chief Amritpal Singh is in a jail in Assam's Dibrugarh while Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is in Tihar Jail. But how does the Lok Sabha election connect the two very different individuals? While the Khalistan sympathiser will be contesting the Lok Sabha polls from the confines of Dibrugarh Jail, Arvind Kejriwal, an elected representative, cannot even vote.

In India, people can contest an election from prison, but they can't vote from jail. This is the paradox.

CANDIDATES HAVE WON ELECTIONS FROM JAIL

Separatist Amritpal Singh, who has been in jail since April 23, 2023, under the stringent National Security Act, will reportedly contest as an Independent from

Punjab's Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha seat. "I met Bhai Saheb (Amritpal) in Dibrugarh Central Jail.

I requested him that in the interest of the Khalsa Panth, he should contest elections from Khadoor Sahib to become a Member of Parliament this time," Amritpal's counsel Rajdev Singh Khalsa said earlier. "Bhai Saheb has agreed, and he will contest the elections as an independent candidate," he added. Amritpal Singh was arrested in Moga district's Rode village in Punjab, after a game of cat and mouse for more than a month. He was wanted by the police after Amritpal Singh had barged into a police station in Amritsar, along with supporters, carrying guns and swords. He had issued an 'ultimatum' for the release of his aide Lovepreet Singh Toofan.

The mob clashed with the police personnel at a police station outside Amritsar. Following that, he was arrested and sent to the Dibrugarh Jail, in Assam's



far east. Amritpal Singh, who once said he did not adhere to the Indian Constitution, is now inching towards Indian democratic politics, which necessitates one to take the oath of the Constitution. A person charged under the NSA will be contesting the Lok



Sabha election. However, people contesting from jails isn't unusual in India. In 1996, don-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari contested Uttar Pradesh's Mau Assembly seat on a BSP ticket while he was in prison. Ansari, who died last

month, won the election from jail. Mukhtar Ansari, who was incarcerated in 2005, went on to win the Mau Assembly seat from jail thrice, in 2007, 2012 and again in 2017. Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was in jail in the fodder scam case during the 1998 Lok Sabha election. He contested Bihar's Madhepura Lok Sabha seat and won from jail.

KEJRIWAL IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY, CANNOT VOTE

While people charged with crimes have contested elections, undertrials who haven't been found guilty haven't been able to cast their votes. There is no provision for voting from prisons in India, even for those who haven't been found guilty. In the Praveen Kumar Chaudhary vs Election Commission of India case of 2019, the Delhi High Court reaffirmed that prisoners do not have a right to vote. This also could be true for Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Congress makes 'spanking' jibe after PM's 'tight slap' remark on EVM order

Congress said it was not a party, directly or indirectly, to the petition on VVPATs that was rejected by the Supreme Court on Friday.



New Delhi. A day after the Supreme Court rejected pleas seeking directions to tally all VVPAT slips with votes cast through EVMs, the Congress said it was not a party to the petition. Responding to Narendra Modi's remark that the verdict was a "tight slap" on the Opposition, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh reminded the Prime Minister of the "spanking" by the Supreme Court in the electoral bonds case. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "The Indian National Congress was not a party, directly

or indirectly, to the petition on VVPATs which has been rejected by the Supreme Court today." Reacting to PM Modi's "tight slap" remark, the Congress leader said, "A few weeks ago the Supreme Court had given the PM a tighter slap - in fact, a spanking - by declaring the corruption-ridden electoral bonds scheme not just illegal but also unconstitutional."

Ramesh also said the Prime Minister should

apologise to the nation for amassing Rs 8,200 crore over the last five years through four primary channels of corruption - "Chanda Do, Dhanda Lo; â Theka Lo, Ghoos do; â Hafta Vasooli, and â Farzi Companies". Ramesh had made a similar allegation earlier as well while flagging a media report that claimed the BJP received 75 per cent of the Rs 582 crore that was donated by 33 loss-making firms through electoral bonds. In February, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous donations to political parties, calling it "unconstitutional". On Friday, the Congress, however, said it would vouch for greater use of VVPATs to increase public trust in elections.

We have taken note of the verdict of the two-judge bench and our political campaign on the greater use of VVPATs to increase public trust in the electoral process will continue," Ramesh tweeted.

Robert Vadra Says "Entire Country Wants Me" To Join Politics

People want change. They want to get rid of the BJP which is misusing the central agencies. People of India are with the Gandhi family as they are seeing the hard work put in by Rahul and Priyanka," he claimed.

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra, who had earlier expressed his desire to contest from the Amethi parliamentary seat, has said that the "entire country" wishes for him to get into active politics. Robert Vadra also claimed that Smriti Irani, the sitting MP from Amethi has not fulfilled her promises. "The voice is coming from the entire country.



They want me to get into active politics as I have always been among the people of the country. People always want me to be there in their region. I have campaigned there (Amethi) since 1999. Smriti Irani, the sitting MP from hasn't fulfilled her promises," Mr Vadra said when asked whether he would contest from Amethi Lok Sabha seat.

Robert Vadra said that Congress is comfortably ahead of the BJP after the conclusion of two phases of Lok Sabha polls. "People want change. They want to get rid of the BJP which is misusing the

central agencies. People of India are with the Gandhi family as they are seeing the hard work put in by Rahul and Priyanka," he claimed. Robert Vadra had expressed similar intentions earlier this month, saying that the people of Amethi expect him to represent their constituency if he thinks of becoming a member of Parliament. "They want a member of the Gandhi family returns, they will

ensure the person's victory with a huge margin, they also expect that if I take my first step in politics, and think of becoming an MP, then I should represent Amethi," he had said on April 4.

Earlier, posters featuring Robert Vadra, appeared outside the party's office on Wednesday in the Gauriganj area of Amethi. This raised speculations of a possible ticket for Vadra.

Robert Vadra, however, said a decision on Amethi and Rae Bareilly constituencies will be taken by the Congress leadership. Sources have told Press Trust of India, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi are likely to contest the Lok Sabha election from Rae Bareilly and Amethi seats, respectively. A final decision will be taken after April 26 and nominations can be filed next week, according to sources. Smriti Irani defeated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Amethi. Irani has been fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party from the seat again.

Trinamool moves poll body over Sandeshkhali raid, claims BJP conspired with CBI

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday approached the Election Commission against the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Security Guard (NSG). The Mamata Banerjee-led party alleged the CBI conducted "unscrupulous raids at empty locations in the state on vote day (April 26)." "Complaint against the CBI for carrying out an unscrupulous raid at an empty location in Sandeshkhali, West Bengal, on poll day, to tarnish the image of All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) during the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, 2024," the complaint read. "There is no way of knowing with certainty, as to whether these weapons were indeed recovered during the search and seizure procedure or whether they were surreptitiously planted by the CBI/NSG," it read. In this regard, it is stated that though 'law and order' is a domain falling completely within the ambit of the State Government, the CBI did not issue an actionable notice to the State Government and/or the police authorities before carrying out such a raid. Further, the State Police has a fully functional bomb disposal squad which could have assisted the entire operation, if the CBI indeed felt that a bomb squad was required during such a raid," it stated. The development comes after the CBI on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including a police service



revolver and foreign-made firearms, from the premises of an associate of now-suspended TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali. The searches were conducted in connection with the January attack on an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team by a mob that was allegedly instigated by Sheikh.

Sheikh was arrested by the West Bengal police on February 29. The owner of the house, identified as Abu Taleb Mollah, is a relative of Sheikh, news agency PTI quoted sources as saying, adding it was not clear why such a huge cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives were stacked inside the house. Later in the day, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Friday said the Trinamool Congress should be declared a "terrorist organisation" and that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should be arrested. Adhikari also said all weapons recovered were foreign. "All the weapons found in Sandeshkhali are foreign. Explosives like RDX are used in horrific anti-national activities. All these weapons are used by international terrorists," Adhikari said.

On Sam Pitroda's US Remark, Shivraj Chouhan's Lesson On "Indian Culture And Tradition"

Earlier, emphasising the need for policy toward wealth redistribution, Sam Pitroda spoke about the concept of inheritance tax prevailing in America and said these are issues that will need to be discussed.

Raisen, Madhya Pradesh: Madhya Pradesh's former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has taken a jibe at Sam Pitroda, who heads the Congress's overseas chapter over his remarks on inheritance tax and said that India's culture, tradition, and moral values are not of America.

Addressing a public rally in Raisen, Shivraj Singh Chouhan slammed Sam Pitroda for comparing India with America and said, "In a country like America, there is a provision that after death, the government (US) takes away 55% of the property. However, Sam Pitroda, this is not America, it's India. India's culture, tradition, and moral values are not of America. India is India." Earlier, emphasising the need for policy toward wealth redistribution, Sam Pitroda spoke about the concept of inheritance tax prevailing in America and said these are issues that will

need to be discussed. "In America, there is an inheritance tax. If one has 100 million USD worth of wealth and when he dies he can only transfer probably 45 per cent to his children, 55 per cent is grabbed by the government. That's an interesting law. It says you in your generation made wealth and you are leaving now, you must leave your wealth for the public, not all of it, half of it, which to me sounds fair," Sam Pitroda had said. "In India, you don't have that. If somebody is worth 10 billion and he dies, his children get 10 billion and the public gets nothing... So these are the kinds of issues people will have to debate and discuss. When we talk about redistributing wealth, we are talking about new policies and new programs that are in the interest of the people and not in the interest of the super-rich only," he had further



said. Criticising Congress, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Be it farmers or the poor people, they also save money so that after their death, they can give something to their children. But the Congress wants to end this

tradition." Shivraj Chouhan added further, "This inheritance tax was in imposition earlier as well, but due to people's pressure, Congress abolished it... Maybe Rajiv Gandhi wanted to get

the property of Indira Gandhi, and so he abolished it. The party has to make its intention clear before the nation. Congress is not on India's path. It is on a dangerous path." In India, the concept of levying tax on inheritance does not exist as of now. In fact, the Inheritance or Estate Tax was abolished with effect from 1985.

Shivraj Chouhan also slammed the Congress party for conducting caste-based census. "On one hand, they talk about imposing inheritance tax, on the other hand, they talk about caste-based census... In how many parts do you want to divide the nation and society?... There are dangerous intentions lying behind... and those intentions are dividing the country based on caste... The country will never accept this, the people of the nation will never accept this," he said.

The preoccupation with food inflation

SOMETIMES, I wonder how can a country poised to become the world's third largest economy in a few years get rattled by a rise in prices of the ubiquitous aloo (potato) and pyaaz (onion). The occasional spike in the prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and cereals has often been blamed for weighing heavily on the inflation outlook, forcing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hold on to benchmark interest rates. With the retail inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), now down to 4.85 per cent, it is the retail food inflation that remains a cause for concern. At 8.5 per cent for March 2024, higher food inflation had left no room for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to cut the repo rate in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year. Given the inflation matrix, the way it is working out, the caution with which the MPC takes a call is aimed at ensuring that inflation aligns with the RBI's target of 4 per cent.

Since the CPI comprises the basket of goods and services consumed by an average urban and rural household, all eyes are on food inflation. An average household is actually impacted much more by the expenses it incurs on health, education and housing — the real drivers of inflation. Whether poor or middle class, every household ends up spending its lifetime savings (often backing it up with bank loans) on educating children, bearing the health expenses of the family and meeting the ever-rising cost of housing. This is even reflected in the higher estimates for household debt, and the latest analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services points to a new high of 40 per cent of the GDP in December 2023. Surely, the growing financial stress necessitating the need for bank loans is not because of the skyrocketing food bill but is an outcome of the ever-increasing spending on health, education and housing. With more or less stagnant incomes (rural wages have barely risen in the past 10 years), a record jump in unsecured personal loans is also being seen. While the Finance Ministry sees the rise in personal loans as an indication of growing aspirations, many regard it as a sign of rising distress. Nevertheless, the latest RBI estimates also point towards declining net financial savings to 5.1 per cent in 2022-23, the lowest in almost five decades. In a country where the average kitchen expenses of a household are between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 per month, a surge in prices of vegetables can increase the monthly food budget of the middle class by around

Rs 1,000 (or at the most Rs 2,000), and yet it sets the alarm bells ringing. With the media driving home the need to tame food prices, the RBI swings into action to ensure that food inflation remains confined to the limits. But I see no reaction when media reports highlight the rising cost of houses under construction in cities. In Patna, the prices have doubled in the past five years, and risen by approximately 50 per cent in cities like Lucknow and Bhopal. In any case, every 11 months, the house rent increases by an average of 10 to 15 per cent.

Earlier, a study by an independent policy think tank, the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, had worked out that house prices in the country had shot up by 15 times over the past three decades. Given the high base level, the actual cost, in absolute terms, that any buyer ends up paying for the house is whopping by any standard. An influencer writing on micro-blogging site X says: "My son is in Grade 3 in a reputed CBSE school in Gurugram. The school fee is Rs 30,000 per month (excluding bus transport)." Another person says: "My friend's daughter is in an international board school in Bengaluru in Class II and her fees is Rs 8 lakh per annum, including food and transportation. With an increase of 10 per cent every year plus additional charges, the per annum fees when she reaches Class XII will be Rs 35 lakh."

US-Japan rapport has strategic, economic lessons for India

Biden and Kishida indicated that they were prepared to challenge China's unrelenting, aggressive intent in the Indo-Pacific.

BOTH the US and Japan go to the polls later this year. Nevertheless, US President Joe Biden and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida found time for a summit in Washington earlier this month. The summit focused on strengthening and enunciating forcefully that the two nations are united strategically and economically.

Biden and Kishida asserted that the US-Japan partnership was prepared to challenge China's unrelenting, aggressive intent in the Indo-Pacific. The emphasis was on securing themselves and their friends from Beijing's economic and strategic coercion by offering alternatives for the region to engage with, including resilient supply chains. Japanese media thinks that a key takeaway from this summit is a recognition by Washington that Tokyo is now a global player and not confined to its own region. Hence, both promised, through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and beyond, to assert shared economic growth, with investments flowing in both directions. Therefore, their collaboration was projected as indispensable for appropriately responding to the Chinese economic coercion and strategic threats and the weak links in supply chains, with the bigger aim of global economic growth. Biden is facing a tough election in November, while Kishida is experiencing political tremors due to his party's plummeting popularity. However, they are keen on sustained compatibility and a stable partnership even if the elections in both countries lead to a changing of the guard. Kishida held talks with Biden, addressed Congress and met business leaders. Kishida conveyed to Congress the message that Japan remained the warmest friend of the US and they stood hand in hand to defend their values. Undoubtedly, the Chinese threats emanating from the Ukraine and West Asian crises dominated the summit. The address to Congress was more of a reassertion of the bilateral partnership. Economic resilience was factored in the business meeting. Kishida met Tim Cook of Apple, Jeff Bezos of Amazon and David McCall, president of the United Steelworkers International, at the state dinner. Nearly 70 announcements were made of new business efforts which are seen as significant deliverables. Now, Japan is more than willing to have a common defence mechanism, with the US playing a bigger role. The US military command structure in Japan will be revitalised, and defence technology will become a more important part of the US-Japan partnership. A boost to artificial intelligence (AI) and related research is now an integral part of the scheme of things. Microsoft is likely to invest \$3 billion in AI-related infrastructure in Japan by 2025. Amazon and Nvidia are likely to support another AI-led programme between the universities of Tsukuba and Washington.



The Japanese technology of Shinkansen (the bullet train) is likely to be a part of the Texas Central High Speed Rail Project, which can reduce the travel time between Dallas and Houston.

A commercial basis of fusion energy was announced. Japanese and US institutions will work on this to jointly contribute to the alleviation of climate change. Japan is at present the largest provider of FDI in the US and a major employer. This was highlighted by Biden at the meeting where representatives of many Japanese-American companies were present. Kishida, who realises the value of the Japanese FDI overseas as a diplomatic tool, promised that this would only increase in the US in the near term.

Kishida's speech to Congress was evocatively titled 'For the future, our global partnership'. He is only the second Japanese PM after Shinzo Abe to be given this privilege and he used it to raise Japan's stature. Talking about the changed geopolitical scenario, he said: "As Japan grew in confidence, we expanded our outlook beyond that of being America's closest ally. We first became a regional partner and now we have become your global partner." Kishida's success in transforming Japan's national security strategy, increasing the defence spending to 2 per cent of the GDP and acquiring counter-strike capacities make him a more valued partner rather than a junior ally to the US.

Hinting that the US could revert to the America First policy, Kishida told Congress that Japan was more than prepared to take on its own share of the burden —

which so far the US has shouldered — in keeping the global order free and open. His message is that the US should continue to engage with the Indo-Pacific in which Japan will play its role alone, without leaning on the US. This implies that Japan would be ready to shoulder responsibilities brought in by the US, for instance, in defence of Taiwan and the Philippines.

Speaking about China, North Korea and Russia and the challenges that they pose to the global order, he said China's actions were unprecedented and the greatest strategic challenge to the peace and stability of the international community, for the sake of which Japan was ready to play a key role. Kishida was Biden's fifth state guest during his term. Among the Quad partners, Australia and India have already been hosted, along with South Korea and France. It is clear that the US and Japan are working to build a stronger partnership in technology, FDI and their common interests in the Indo-Pacific and Southeast Asia. Both see the Kishida-Biden meeting as the validation of their respective Indo-Pacific strategies. With the South Korea-Japan-US relationship also steady now, the force structure of the US in Japan will become more integrated into a joint operation centre. A new military industrial council would evaluate the co-production of defence equipment, where Japan's industrial capacity and technology will come to the forefront and match the US in strategic applications. Five space agreements over the years will bring them closer in space exploration as well.

Dire state of schools

Haryana must rationalise staff, fill posts

Over the past year, a series of reports in The Tribune has shed light on the dire state of government schools in Haryana. As per the latest findings, 19 government schools in the state are without students, while a staggering 3,148 schools have less than 50 each. Also, 811 schools are being run by a lone teacher. These deficiencies raise serious questions about access to education for children across the state. The infrastructure in some schools tells a similarly grim story. Essential facilities such as science labs, technological resources and skill education labs remain woefully inadequate. The lack of smart classrooms exacerbates the problem. A high number of vacancies in institutions such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, the State Council of Education



Research and Training and the District Institutes of Education and Training underscores the systemic

challenges. These gaps undermine efforts to improve teaching standards. Other problems, such as children studying in an unsafe, condemned building and over 500 government schools showing poor board results in 2022, also highlight the urgent need for intervention. The safety and wellbeing of students cannot be compromised; the subpar academic outcomes, as revealed by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), demand immediate remedial action.

Rationalising manpower, prioritising infrastructure development, filling vacant posts and ensuring a healthy learning environment are essential to turn the tide. Failure to do so will deprive the children of their right to quality education and hinder the socio-economic development of the state.

Our soldiers showed great courage under fire

The success of 13 JAK RIF was a testament to the unwavering dedication of its officers and jawans.

THE Kargil War, fought in the summer of 1999, remains a defining moment for the Indian Army. This conflict was unlike any other, set amidst treacherous high-altitude terrain ranging from 14,000 to 18,000 ft. The challenges weren't just military; they included battling the unforgiving weather, climate and geography. Yet, for the fearless troops, these obstacles were mere preludes to achieving their mission: evicting Pakistani infiltrators who had crossed the Line of Control and seized strategic positions. I count myself singularly fortunate to have commanded 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (13 JAK RIF) during this pivotal period. As the officiating Commanding Officer, I witnessed the battalion play a crucial role in shaping the outcome of Operation Vijay. It feels like yesterday when, on June 9, 1999, I embarked on an IL-76 IAF transport aircraft from Chandigarh, leading the advance party of my battalion back to Srinagar and onward to Ladakh. It was a moment filled with uncertainty, in stark contrast to the peace we had enjoyed at Shahjahanpur (UP) just four months earlier following a demanding tenure in Sopore conducting counter-terrorist operations. Upon reuniting with the battalion on June 10 at Gumri, near Zoji La, events unfolded rapidly. On June 11, we were placed under the command of 56 Mountain Brigade as reserve to

2 Rajputana Rifles for the capture of Tololing. By June 12, we had concentrated at Drass, where the grim reality of our surroundings hit me hard. A board erected by the Border Roads Organisation on the roadside greeted us with a chilling reminder: "Drass, the second coldest inhabited place in the world, at minus 60°C." Surveying the landscape, I saw towering mountains devoid of vegetation, a stark reminder of the formidable challenge ahead. The air was pierced by intermittent artillery shelling, with

explosions rattling the nearby national highway. Amidst the chaos, vehicles raced to safety, while an ambulance hurriedly transported injured soldiers to the field hospital. In the distance, the sound of machine-gun fire echoed. In the wee hours of June 13, amidst all this uncertainty, 13 JAK RIF received orders to advance towards Tololing. The terrain was hostile, with narrow spur lines serving as the only path forward. The sheer cliffs made every step perilous, with the ever-present threat of enemy fire. Yet, guided by our training and resolve, we pressed on. After a gruelling climb of 16-17 hours, dodging artillery shells and navigating through enemy-laid minefields, we linked up with Col Khushal Thakur, Commanding Officer of 18 Grenadiers. Assuming responsibility from 18 Grenadiers, we moved forward, capturing Rocky Knob and Point 5140. The success at Rocky Knob, led by Major SV Bhaskar, bolstered our morale, paving the way for the subsequent assault on Point 5140. Led by Capt Sanjeev Jamwal and Capt Vikram Batra, Bravo and Delta companies overcame immense odds, culminating in the iconic moment when Capt Batra signalled our triumph with the words, "Yeh dil maange more", as the Tricolour fluttered proudly atop Point 5140 on the morning of June 20. Buoyed by our success, our next objective was the capture of Point 4875, a strategic vantage point overlooking a significant stretch of the national highway. Despite stiff enemy resistance, the battalion launched its assault on July 4, with the Charlie Company under Major Gurpreet Singh and the Alpha Company under



Major Bhaskar leading the charge. After three days of relentless fighting, we secured Point 4875, albeit at a heavy cost. Capt Batra's valour paved the way for our victory, earning him the Param Vir Chakra posthumously. Point 4875 was renamed 'Batra Top' in his honour.

The ferocity of the battle for Point 4875 earned it the moniker, 'The bloodiest battle of the war', with Param Vir Chakras awarded to Capt Batra and Rifleman Sanjay Kumar. The unwavering courage and sacrifice of 13 JAK RIF during this conflict, epitomised by 37 gallantry awards — including two Param Vir Chakras, eight Vir Chakras and 14 Sena Medals — will forever be etched in the annals of Army history. Two brave officers and 14 jawans laid

down their lives for the honour of the nation. Their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten. My homage and utmost respect to these gutsy soldiers, who will always be remembered. The success of 13 JAK RIF was a testament to the unwavering dedication of its officers and jawans, who embodied the regimental motto, 'Prashastha Ranveerta' (Victory in battle is appreciated). From young company commanders to seasoned veterans, each played a vital role in the battalion's triumph. The coordinated efforts of individuals like Major Bhaskar, Vikas Vohra, Gurpreet Singh, Rajeev Kapoor, Ajay Jasrotia, Anirban Chatterjee, Navveen Anaberu, Sandeep Tiwari and Capt Rajesh Adhau were instrumental in ensuring success amidst the chaos of war. Many, however, went unrecognised in the melee and fog of war. Every soldier of the battalion played a very important role in his own way in the execution of one of the most complicated operations ever. As I reflect on the war, our achievements are a source of great pride, which is tempered by the sorrow of losing comrades. These moments of triumph and tragedy will forever be etched in my memory, a testimony to the resilience of the Army. In conclusion, the saga of 13 JAK RIF in the Kargil War serves as a poignant reminder of the valour and indomitable spirit of the Indian armed forces, whose sacrifices safeguard the integrity and sovereignty of our nation.

अधिकतर लोग पोजिशन होल्डर होते हैं, जिनका ध्यान मात्र पोजिशन को बनाए रखने, अपने वेतन और मिलने वाले भत्तों पर होता है। वे अपना काम अपने विभाग, अपनी वरिष्ठता और जॉब प्रोफाइल के रूप में बताते हैं। वहीं एक लीडर किसी वस्तु, सेवा या काम को वेल्थ प्रदान करता है। उसका फोकस योगदान पर होता है।

लीडर बनोगे या पोजीशन होल्डर?



आईआईएम कोझिकोड के निदेशक देवाशीष चटर्जी ने अपनी हालिया किताब 'द अदर 99' में लीडरशिप के जटिल मुद्दों को उठाया है। एक लीडर और एक पोजिशन होल्डर के बीच के अंतर पर यह किताब खास जोर देती है। किताब कहती है कि अधिकतर लोग पोजिशन होल्डर होते हैं, जिनका ध्यान मात्र पोजिशन को बनाए रखने, अपने वेतन और मिलने वाले भत्तों पर होता है। वे अपना काम अपने विभाग, अपनी वरिष्ठता और जॉब प्रोफाइल के रूप में बताते हैं। वहीं एक लीडर किसी वस्तु, सेवा या काम को वेल्थ प्रदान करता है। उसका फोकस योगदान पर होता है। इस भूमिका में एक नेता जीवन को वह लौटा रहा होता है, जो उसे जीवन से मिला है। अपने योगदान से वह अपने साथ के लोगों को विकसित करने और उन्हें अपना प्रकाश दूढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित करता है। पोजिशन होल्डर की तुलना में एक लीडर का काम स्व-सेवा के दायरे से निकल कर बड़े स्तर पर काम को प्रभावित करना होता है। अक्सर हम अपनी ऊर्जा काम की जगह काम के बारे में बोलने में खर्च करते हैं। आईबीएम के सीईओ लो गार्स्टनम ने कहा है, 'मैं हरेक काम को बिना बोले अंजाम देने में यकीन रखता हूँ। जब काम सब कुछ कह रहा हो, तो बोलकर उसमें बाधा डालने की जरूरत क्या है? जब

काम कर रहे हों, तो पूरा ध्यान काम पर ही लगाएं। जैसे, जब आप चल रहे हों, तब केवल चलें और अपने पैरों का सतह के साथ संपर्क अनुभव करें। आपको अपने पैर ऊर्जा के केंद्र प्रतीत होंगे। अन्य कार्यों में भी ऐसा करके आप अपने कामों को गति दे सकते हैं। आत्मविश्वास बढ़ाने का अच्छा तरीका निःस्वार्थ भाव से दूसरों की मदद करना है। हारवर्ड के एक शोध के अनुसार जो लोग बिना किसी लोभ के दूसरों की मदद करते हैं, उनमें ऊर्जा का स्तर अधिक होता है। दूसरों की मदद करके हम अपनी सीमाओं में विस्तार कर पाते हैं। कार्यों में गैर जरूरी और बेतरतीब कामों को नोट करके रखें। काम के दौरान गॉसिपिंग एक ऐसा ही कार्य है, जिससे काम में भी कोई मदद नहीं मिलती और मूर्खतापूर्ण बातों में समय और ऊर्जा भी व्यर्थ होते हैं। अपनी ऊर्जा को गैर-जरूरी कामों से निकाल कर जरूरी कामों में निवेश करें। कब विराम लगाना है, यह जानना भी जरूरी है। एक सीमा के बाद कार्य पर से ध्यान हटाना भी जरूरी होता है, क्योंकि हरेक चीज की अपनी रफ्तार होती है, जिस पर आपका नियंत्रण नहीं होता। आपका अतिरिक्त प्रयास उसमें गति नहीं देता। जैसे दफ्तर के लिए बस में बैठने के बाद बार-बार झड़वर को ऑफिस पहुंचने का निर्देश देना जरूरी नहीं होता।

पूंजी-बाजार की पकड़ देगी अच्छा रिटर्न

बीएफएसआई यानी बैंकिंग फाइनेंशियल सर्विस और इंड्योरेंस, ऐसा सेक्टर है जो गतिशील होने के साथ-साथ विविधता भरा है। यहां सीए, सीएस, आईसीडीबीयूए, एमबीए, एमएफआई/आईआरडीए जैसे सर्टिफिकेटधारियों की अच्छी मांग तो है ही, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा इन फाइनेंशियल प्लानिंग या सीएफपी वालों को भी खासी वरीयता दी जा रही है। रिसर्च में भी अवसरों की कमी नहीं है।

बैंकिंग और वित्त क्षेत्र में आए सुधार ने इन क्षेत्रों के जानकारों की मांग बढ़ा दी है। यही नहीं, बैंकिंग कंपनियों के आउटसोर्सिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स की तेजी ने आईटी कंपनियों में भी वित्तीय समझ रखने वाले प्रोफेशनल्स की उपस्थिति को अनिवार्य बना दिया है। आईटी और एफएमसीजी की ओर रुख कर रहे छात्र एक बार फिर बीएफएसआई में कैरियर की अच्छी संभावनाएं देखने लगे हैं। बीएफएसआई क्षेत्र में मौजूद व्यापक संभावनाओं को इस बात से समझा जा सकता है कि फिलहाल देश के 40 प्रतिशत लोग ही बैंकिंग सुविधाओं का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। छह लाख से अधिक गांव ऐसे हैं, जहां बैंक अभी तक नहीं पहुंचे हैं और कुल 38 प्रतिशत बैंक शाखाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में काम कर रही हैं। बैंक और वित्त मामलों के जानकार वीके सूरी के अनुसार 'इसमें दोराय नहीं कि बैंकिंग, वित्त और इंड्योरेंस सुविधाओं में हो रहे विस्तार से ग्रामीण क्षेत्र बहुत दिनों तक अछूते नहीं रहेंगे। दिनांदिन फैल रहा इनका नेटवर्क टॉप बी-स्कूलों के

प्रोफेशनल्स के साथ वित्तीय मामलों की समझ रखने वाले सामान्य कॉमर्स ग्रेजुएट्स और आईआरडीए/एएमएफआई सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स करने वालों युवाओं के लिए भी नौकरियों के अवसर उत्पन्न करेगा। बीएफएसआई एक गतिशील क्षेत्र है। यहां सभी स्तर पर रोजगार के अवसर हैं, बशर्ते आप इंडस्ट्री में आ रहे बदलावों से खुद को अपडेट रखें। एक पेंड जितना बाहर से बड़ा और मजबूत होता है, उतनी ही उसकी जड़ें भीतर भी फैली होती हैं। इसी कारण इस क्षेत्र में पैठ बनाने के लिए फ्रेशर्स को प्रारंभ में पैसे से अधिक अनुभव और जानकारी अर्जित करने पर फोकस रखना चाहिए।

हायरिंग ट्रेंड्स

बीएफएसआई एक सदाबहार क्षेत्र है, जिनके जानकारों की मांग सभी क्षेत्रों में होती है। इस इंडस्ट्री में काम करने वालों के लिए इतने अधिक अवसरों की उपलब्धता इससे पहले कभी नहीं रही। जॉब मार्केट में भी



लचीलापन है और सभी स्तरों पर रोजगार के अवसर हैं। एक अनुमान के अनुसार इस वित्त वर्ष में बीएफएसआई में लगभग 65 हजार से अधिक नई नौकरियों के अवसर उत्पन्न होंगे।

खुद को करें तैयार

सूचना तकनीक की भूमिका बढ़ने से बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में ढांचागत परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं। ग्लोबल बैंकिंग के क्षेत्र में हो रहे विस्तार तथा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड में बढ़ती भागीदारी इस क्षेत्र में प्रोफेशनल्स की मांग को बढ़ाएगी। रवि राव कहते हैं, 'भारतीय निर्यात यदि 15 प्रतिशत की सालाना दर से भी बढ़ता है तो विदेशी विनिमय से जुड़े कारोबार में प्रोफेशनल्स की मांग बड़े स्तर पर होगी।' क्रेडिट सेवाओं का दायरा भी लगातार मजबूत हो रहा है। विभिन्न फाइनेंशियल कंपनियां इंड्योरेंस और म्यूचुअल फंड निवेश की योजनाएं पेश कर रही हैं। ब्रोकरेज व कंसल्टिंग फर्मों में पोर्टफोलियो मैनेजर्स की मांग और बढ़ेगी।

इन स्किल्स की दरकार

बीएफएसआई, आर्थिक लेन-देन और हिसाब-किताब से जुड़ा क्षेत्र है, इसी कारण यह संवेदनशील भी है। कैरियर काउंसलर के अनुसार 'निवेश सलाह देने वाली कंपनियां बाजार में तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं। इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वालों के लिए वित्त मामलों की समझ होना जरूरी है। लोगों की जरूरत को समझकर उनकी निवेश पूंजी में वृद्धि करने का गुण उम्मीदवार में अवश्य होना चाहिए। इसलिए कॉमर्स ग्रेजुएट्स या पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट्स, बैंकिंग और फाइनेंस में एमबीए, साथ ही एएमएफआई/आईआरडीए जैसा सर्टिफिकेट्स रखने वालों की खासी मांग रहती है।



सहकर्मियों और बॉस को अपना मुरीद बनाना चाहते हैं तो विषय के साथ प्रभावी बातचीत करने के गुर सीखने पर भी जोर दें। वर्कप्लेस पर आपकी बातचीत तनाव का कारण न बने, इसके लिए समय, स्थान और व्यक्ति को ध्यान रखना जरूरी होता है। प्रोफेशनल कम्युनिकेशन में 'चलता है' एटीट्यूड महंगा पड़ता है।

वर्कप्लेस पर बोलें जरा संभलकर

नितिन एक सीनियर सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर हैं, उन्हें नौकरी करते हुए अभी डेढ़ साल ही बीता है। इस दौरान वे चार प्रमुख प्रोजेक्ट्स पर अलग-अलग टीमों के साथ काम कर चुके हैं। इस वर्ष उन्हें प्रमोशन भी मिली, साथ में अच्छी परफॉरमेंस के कारण कंपनी ने उन्हें बेस्ट एंप्लॉई की सूची में रखते हुए दो बड़े मॉल्स से पांच-पांच हजार की शॉपिंग के गिफ्ट वाउचर भी दिए। नितिन की इस तरक्की में उनकी तकनीकी समझ के साथ अच्छी कम्युनिकेशन स्किल्स की भी खासी भूमिका रही है। नितिन कहते हैं, 'मेरे अप्रेंटिस फॉर्म में सीनियर बॉस ने फीडबैक में लिखा कि मैं सीनियर्स व टीम के सदस्यों के साथ शालीनता से पेश आता हूँ। नए काम के बारे में मेरी सोच सकारात्मक होती है और अच्छी कम्युनिकेशन स्किल्स के कारण मुझे दूसरे सेंटर्स पर भी क्लाइंट्स से बातचीत के लिए भेजा जा सकता है।' एस्पायर ह्यूमन कैपिटल मैनेजमेंट के डीपीपी आलोक जैन कहते हैं, 'वर्कप्लेस पर उम्मीदवार की प्रभावी बातचीत का ढंग दूसरे कर्मचारियों में उम्मीदवार की अच्छी साख बनाता है। स्किल्स से आशय है कि आप दूसरे पक्ष तक बिना किसी उलझन के अपनी बात सही रूप में पहुंचाएं। नियम है कि जैसी आपकी बात होती है, वैसी ही आपको प्रतिक्रिया मिलेगी।' पर्सनैलिटी एन्हेंसर रीता गंगवानी कहती हैं, 'वर्कप्लेस पर प्रभावी कम्युनिकेशन के दो सूत्र हैं। पहला, अपनी बात बोलने के साथ दूसरों की बात को सही ढंग से सुनें। बात को समझने के बाद ही कोई प्रतिक्रिया दें। दूसरा, बात करते समय सही स्थान और समय का ध्यान रखें। कौन सी बात सहकर्मियों के समझ बोलनी है, मीटिंग में किस बात को कैसे रखना है आदि। खुले में सीनियर की बात पर कैसी प्रतिक्रिया देनी है, इसे ध्यान रखना जरूरी है। सीनियर की गलत बात पर तुरंत नकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया न दें। अपनी बात सुझावात्मक ढंग से रखें। यदि बॉस आपसे बहुत खुल कर बातचीत करते हैं तो भी आप अपनी सीमाओं में रहें।' कैरियर काउंसलर जितिन कहते हैं, 'विभाग और टीम के सदस्यों के साथ इंटरनल तथा कस्टमर और क्लाइंट के साथ

एक्सटर्नल कम्युनिकेशन दोनों ही मायने रखते हैं। आईटी, बीपीओ, रिटेल या टूरिज्म जैसे सेवा क्षेत्रों में इंग्लिश कम्युनिकेशन की एक खास भूमिका होती है। आमतौर पर तकनीकी पृष्ठभूमि से जुड़े युवा और शैक्षिक संस्थानों में कम्युनिकेशन पहलू पर महत्व नहीं देते, जो अंततः उम्मीदवार की रोजगार योग्यता को कम कर देता है। यह एक ऐसी जरूरत है, जिसकी उपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती। सीनियर के साथ एस्पएमएस या ई-मेल से बात करते समय अपने लिखे हुए को अच्छी तरह अवश्य पढ़ लेना चाहिए। स्पेलिंग और ग्रामर के साथ अपनी शैली पर भी ध्यान दें।'

हर स्तर पर काम आती है कम्युनिकेशन स्किल

जॉब मार्केट में उतरते ही प्रोफेशनल व्यवहार और बातचीत का ध्यान रखना जरूरी होता है। रिज्यूम और इंटरव्यू में तो रिक्रूटर्स उम्मीदवार की कम्युनिकेशन स्किल्स को परखते ही हैं, काम के दौरान भी कम्युनिकेशन स्किल काफी मायने रखती है। रिज्यूम और इंटरव्यू के दौरान विनम्र और सकारात्मक रुख से बात करें। सीनियर स्तर पर अंग्रेजी का ज्ञान होना जरूरी है। ई-मेल से कम्युनिकेट करते समय उसकी ड्राफ्टिंग कंपनी की कार्य संस्कृति ध्यान में रखकर करें, जैसे वरिष्ठ को नाम से संबोधित कर सकते हैं या नहीं, आदरसूचक शब्दों के तौर पर वहां क्या इस्तेमाल करते हैं आदि। अक्सर फ्रेशर्स सीधे ही बात लिख देते हैं, जिससे उनमें आत्मविश्वास की कमी देखने को मिलती है। बॉस के स्वभाव को ध्यान में रखें। कर्मचारियों की लेखन क्षमता जानने के लिए कंपनियां शुरुआत में उनकी रूचियों या संस्थान को जॉइन करने के उद्देश्य के संबंध में लिखित में नोट लेती हैं, जिससे उम्मीदवारों की वॉकेबुलरी, वाक्य संरचना और संक्षेप में बात प्रस्तुत करने की योग्यता का पता लगाना आसान हो जाता है। प्रोफेशनल कम्युनिकेशन में चलता है नहीं चलता।

NEWS BOX

World wrestling body threatens to reimpose ban on WFI if ad-hoc committee is brought back

New Delhi. Wrestling's world governing body UWW on Friday threatened to reimpose the ban on India and bar its wrestlers from the final Olympic Qualifiers next month if an ad-hoc committee was brought back to run the sport. Recently, the Delhi High Court directed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to file an affidavit stating the circumstances which led to the dissolution of the ad-hoc committee for running the national wrestling body. The UWW (United World Wrestling) in a letter to WFI (Wrestling Federation of India) reiterated its stand that they won't allow any third party interference in the running of the national association of any country.

"We have been informed that the Wrestling Federation of India is once again threatened by your Ministry of Sports with the imposition of an Ad-hoc committee to oversee its affairs," UWW president Nenad Lalovic wrote in his e-mail to WFI.

PARIS OLYMPICS IN JEOPARDY? He reminded the WFI of the serious implications the move could have, including jeopardising India's preparations for the upcoming Olympic Games.

"Besides our lassitude for this additional affair impacting your federation and its members, we would like to reiterate UWW's determination to uphold the principle of autonomy and independence of its national federations in accordance with the UWW Statutes and the Olympic Charter." In case any decision or order should be made against your federation, and a third party be designated to run the daily affairs of our sport in India in violation of the UWW Statutes, UWW would have no other option than to reimpose a temporary suspension of your federation until further notice, and which, this time, could maybe include your athletes," Lalovic warned.

Earlier, in a big relief for WFI, the UWW had lifted its suspension on it on after it conducted elections. However, the sports ministry is yet to lift its suspension. A number of court cases are also pending in the matter as elite wrestlers have challenged the legality of WFI's elections.

Archery World Cup: India bag three gold medals to sweep compound team events

New Delhi. Underlining their supremacy in non-Olympic compound archery, India grabbed a hat-trick of gold medals to make a clean sweep of team events at the ongoing World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai here on Saturday. India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur dropped just four points to trounce Italy 236-225 in the women's compound team event to open their account with a gold in the season-opening global showpiece. The men's team of Abhishek Verma, Priyansh and Prathamesh Fuge went one step better as they missed just two points en route to defeating Netherlands' Mike Schloesser, Sil Pater and Stef Willems 238-231. The mixed team completed the sweep when the second-seeded Jyothi and Abhishek warded off a late resurgence from their Estonian rivals -- Lisell Jaatma and Robin Jaatma -- to win 158-157 in a thrilling finish. This was a double gold medal for the reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi who is also in the hunt for an individual gold and will play her semifinal later in the day. Priyansh is also in the hunt for an individual medal in the compound segment. Medal rounds in the recurve section will be on Sunday and India are eyeing two gold from the Olympic discipline. The Indian men's team will take on Olympic champions South Korea in the gold medal clash. Deepika Kumari is in fray for an individual medal and will play her semifinal against South Korean rival in the women's recurve section. The women's compound team, who qualified as top seed, dropped just four points from 24 arrows to down sixth seeded Italy in the first match of the day. In the first three ends of six arrows each, Jyothi, Aditi and Parneet missed the perfect 10 only twice to take a handsome 178-171 lead over Marcella Tonioli, Irene Franchini and Elisa Roner.

Leicester promoted to Premier League as Leeds crash

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM. Leicester City were promoted to the Premier League on Friday after rivals Leeds United crashed to a shock 4-0 defeat at Queens Park Rangers. The result leaves Leicester top of the Championship with 94 points with two games to play while Leeds stay second on 90 but with just one match left. Third-place Ipswich Town can pip Leeds to the second automatic promotion place as they currently have 89 points with three matches still to play. "It's not in our hands anymore (automatic promotion), we need to be honest," Leeds boss Daniel Farke told the BBC. "The race is not over, if Ipswich win the next two games then I will say congratulations but if they don't win them then we will have a lot to play for (against Southampton on the final day of the season).

West Indies cricketers load luggage in small van in Nepal: Judgemental video slammed

New Delhi. Star singles players will aim for a consistent run as Indian men embark on a tough journey of defending their title at the Thomas Cup, while a young women's team, sans the peerless P V Sindhu, will look to punch above its weight when it begins its campaign in Uber Cup here on Saturday.

Just two years ago, India had sent shockwaves across the badminton world when they clinched their maiden Thomas Cup crown, considered the team world championship for men. Without the burden of expectations, India went on to dismantle the world's best teams to script an unprecedented chapter in the history of the sport, and now they return to the 33rd edition with the arduous task of once again showing their might against the top echelons of the sport. However, the underdog tag won't be there this time. In fact, all the teams will be gunning for the defending champions, who have retained the core of the 2022 side which had made history in Bangkok. India will count on the experience of last edition as they have been put in the 'Group of Death', featuring multiple-time winners Indonesia, Thailand and England in Group C. Indian men will begin their campaign against Thailand, who boost of reigning world champion Kunlavut

Vitidsarn and young Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul. But the most formidable will be third-seeded Indonesia, who have the likes of Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting -- the two played the finals of All England in March --, and world No. 7 pair of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Fajar Alfian. "It will be tough this year. Based on current form, there are lots of teams with three strong singles and two doubles (players) like China, Denmark, Chinese Taipei, Japan, and Indonesia," HS Prannoy told PTI. A lot can happen in two years' time and none of the Indian players coming to China this week are the same. Prannoy, who had delivered the goods under pressure in the deciding fifth singles, is coming into the tournament after struggling in the first half of the season, owing to a chronic stomach disorder which returned after troubling him in the past. His 90-minute marathon battle en route to a morale-boosting win over China's Lu Guang Zu, however, showed he is close to recovery and will carry the onus of giving the team a good start as he is the top-ranked singles player at world No. 9 now. Lakshya Sen has found his mojo just in time with successive semifinal finishes at the French Open and the All England Championships



after enduring a difficult 2023 and early 2024. Kidambi Srikanth, who had won all six matches in 2022, has blown hot and cold in the last two years. He also endured tough losses in the team championships final at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2023 Asian Games. Another player who could be entrusted with the third singles is young Priyanshu Rajawat, who was part of the team which won the epic title in Bangkok, and since then has gone on to claim his maiden Super 300 title last year in Orleans. While the rest had an inconsistent run, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have looked unstoppable and are coming into the prestigious event with four straight finals on the World Tour. The duo will be the spearhead of India's campaign. Dhruv Kapila

and Arjun MR, who will play the second doubles, have weaved a few title wins at the Uganda International Challenge and Orlen Polish Open, besides signing off with a quarterfinal finish at the Spain Masters in March. "As a team we have evolved in the last 2-3 years. Everybody has been able to keep aside their individual problems for a one-week time and has been able to push through emotional challenges in a much better way during

the team events," Prannoy said. It is likely that Prannoy and Srikanth could be rotated during the event, putting the onus more on Sen and Rajawat to deliver. There is also Kiran George, who has been in decent touch. In Uber Cup, Ashmita Chaliha will lead a young Indian team with all the big guns skipping the tournament after competing in a series of tournaments to qualify for the Paris Olympics. The greenhorns will look to test their mental and physical fortitude against the top international players when they open their campaign against Canada in Group A. Top seeds and multiple-time winners China and Singapore are also in their group, making it improbable for the young women's team to go past the group stage.

PBKS players enjoy Mishti Doi after hammering KKR in Eden Gardens

New Delhi PBKS players enjoyed the famous Kolkata delicacy named Mishti Doi after hammering KKR at the Eden Garden Stadium on April 26, Friday. It was a perfect and sweet end for PBKS, who snapped their 4-match losing streak to register their 3rd win of the season. In a mega-run-fest, PBKS successfully hunted down 262 runs with 8 balls to spare against KKR. The official social media handle of the franchise shared a special video, giving a glimpse of the dressing room's atmosphere after the emphatic win. It was a chill mood in the dressing room with the iconic 'Jatt don't care' song being played in the background. The PBKS players have been obsessed with this Punjab song since last year and the tradition continued this year as well.

What caught everybody's attention was how the players celebrated the win. Punjab's pacer Arshdeep Singh was seen enjoying a Bengali sweet dish named Mishti Doi. The



bowler seemed to have been relishing the Mishti Doi as the win was as sweet as the dish. Meanwhile, there was a widespread buffet of other dishes as well, but else can be a better way to celebrate than by eating the dish, the franchise's state is famous for. In a historic run-chase at the Eden Gardens, records were shattered one after the other. A total of 523 runs were scored in the match with a record 42 sixes being hit,

most in a T20 match. Batting first, KKR openers, Sunil Narine (71) and Phil Salt (75) shared a 138-run opening stand. The early onslaught was followed by quickfire knocks of 10-ball 28 by Shreyas Iyer and Russell contributed with a 14-ball 24.

While chasing down the 262-run target, PBKS went ballistic from the word go as 93 runs were scored within the powerplay itself. After Prabhsimran Singh departed after scoring 54 runs from just 24 balls,

Jonny Bairstow, who was not in good touch this season, carried the team and made a brilliant return. Bairstow was joined by Punjab's find of the season, Shashank Singh as the KKR bowlers, barring Sunil Narine, looked hapless. Bairstow's thunderous century propelled Punjab to win the match as they registered the highest-ever successful chase in the history of T20 cricket and IPL.

Motivated Prabhsimran Singh looking to make the most of Impact Player rule

→ PBKS chased down the highest-ever target in T20 cricket against KKR on Friday, 26 April. After the game, PBKS youngster Prabhsimran Singh said that he was looking to make the most out of the Impact Player rule this season.



youngsters, who are desperate to showcase their talent in the Indian Premier League. Speaking at the post-match press conference, a motivated Prabhsimran Singh lauded his team's effort for scripting a record chase in T20 cricket.

"Impact player is an opportunity for younger players, that's how I see it," Prabhsimran said after the match. The 23-year-old smashed a rapid fifty in the second innings before getting out via a direct throw into the stumps from Sunil Narine standing at short fine-leg. Prabhsimran's 20-ball 54 set the

stage for the PBKS team to chase down the massive target of 262 runs. The batter said that the team was motivated despite the string of losses in their home stadium at Mullanpur. "The coaches were motivating us through the losses because they knew what we are capable of, so the environment was fine. We were confident in the second innings, because if we got hit, they can get hit too, the coaches said to go about our normal ways, but ya, obviously we had to consciously dominate," Prabhsimran said.

IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule

The batter also lauded player of the match Jonny Bairstow, who smashed a riveting hundred on the day. "Jonny Bairstow is a big player. You need just one match to get out of form, and you can see what he did today," Prabhsimran concluded. This was Punjab's third win of the season in 9 games. The team is currently in the 8th spot and is tied in points with 9th place MI.

Bowlers are living in 'element of fear': KKR coach Doeschate on run-fest in IPL 2024

New Delhi KKR batting coach Ryan ten Doeschate feels that there is an element of fear among the bowlers with the way batters have been hitting runs in the Indian Premier League 2024 season. PBKS beat the living daylight out of the KKR bowlers, scripting a historic chase in T20 cricket at the Eden Gardens on Friday, 26 April. The Punjab side chased down 262 runs in just 18.4 overs with 8 wickets in hand. Speaking at the press conference after the result, ten Doeschate asked the bowlers to be more brave. Doeschate believed that KKR would have taken 260 any day as a first innings score, but the nature of pitches and the batters are making life very hard for the bowlers.

"I think the way batting is going across the competition. There's if anything, there's an element of fear, and I think there's a lot of upside with the ball if the guys are going to be brave enough to take on that battle. But I think it's a pretty new phenomenon, the way batters are batting, everyone looks like they're just taking a step back. Like you say, Sunil is fantastic, other guys will be disappointed as we are with that performance," Ryan ten Doeschate said in the post-match press conference in Kolkata. "We need to find ways to stop batters, taking the game away like they're doing across the competition," he further added.

'BOWLERS NEED TO BE BRAVE'

The KKR coach explained the mentality shift in batting in the IPL 2024. He spoke about the ability of the batters to play high-risk, high-reward shots and go full-blast from the very first ball due to the presence of an Impact Player - an additional batter in the dugout.

"I think if you told us we're gonna score 262 tonight. Uh, you almost couldn't fathom a team chasing that down. And it's the same for us when you're batting first. You know, you've got an extra batter in the shade so you can go pretty hard. So I guess A - the mindset of the batters has to be that you're prepared to go hard the whole time for the whole 20 overs until the situation changes. And like I said with the ball, I think there's a lot of upside into being brave and really going at the batters instead of just sitting back and waiting till we find a way to stop this stream of runs that's been coming in," ten Doeschate said.

Zinta's team won kya PBKS responds to Salman Khan's viral old tweet

New Delhi. The PBKS would be over the moon by their performance on Friday evening, be it the team or their social media handle and, after all, why not? They successfully chased down the highest-ever score in the history of T20 cricket. The social media handle of Punjab was on song after their enthralling win over KKR at the Eden Garden Stadium, Kolkata. They responded to a viral tweet from Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, which dated back to 2014. PBKS took to 'X' to retweet Salman's old tweet from the night of the IPL qualifier between PBKS (then KXIP) and KKR. In that tweet, Salman enquired by taking a sly dig if Preity Zinta's team won or not. Punjab had lost to Kolkata by 28 runs on May 28, 2014. However, in the eliminator round, they defeated CSK to play the summit clash. It was the first time when Punjab reached the final of the tournament after showcasing some impeccable performances. However,



Punjab had lost to Gautam Gambhir-led Kolkata by 3 wickets in a thrilling final. Almost 10 years later, PBKS retweeted Salman's inquiry and wrote, "Match bhi jeete or dil bhi" on 'X'.

KKR VS PBKS: AS IT HAPPENED

It was a sweet revenge by PBKS over KKR as they thrashed the home team by 8 wickets at Eden Garden Stadium on April 26, Friday. In

a ruthless batting display by both the sides, a total of 523 runs were scored in 2 innings and a total of 42 sixes were hit, most in a T20 match. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule

Jonny Bairstow roared back to form with a scintillating hundred as he scored 108 runs from 49 balls. The KKR bowlers, except Sunil Narine, were taken to the cleaners by the PBKS batters as Shashank Singh clubbed 68 runs from just 28 deliveries to help the team finish off the chase with 8 balls to spare.

Earlier, KKR openers, Sunil Narine and Phil Salt provided a thunderous start to the team with a 138-run opening stand and, despite the contributions from Shreyas Iyer and Andre Russell with the bat, the KKR bowlers failed to defend 262 runs.

Chhavi Mittal

Says She Was 'Wronged and Forgotten' During Cancer Battle: 'My Own People...'

Television actress Chhavi Mittal has always been vocal about her battle with cancer. On Thursday, she took to her Instagram handle and penned down a long note sharing how her cancer was very "painful". Chhavi argued that she was 'wronged' and 'forgotten' by her people during that difficult phase. "My experience with cancer was the most painful not because I couldn't take the physical pain or limitation, but because how my own people have wronged me, been insensitive towards me, forgotten about me, not checked on me.. and even judged me coz I fended for myself," she wrote. However, Chhavi stated that she is a strong person today and does not bother herself by what others think of her. She also mentioned that she does not expect anything from anyone now because expectations only lead to disappointment. "Nobody has a

perfect life and neither do I, so my own discomfort or the restrictions, I can deal with.. and being sensitive towards my own needs is the first step towards happiness," she continued.

No, I'm not there yet, I'm not there today, and I'm still taking baby steps, but I've come this far.. 2 years.. by just taking one day at a time.. what's to stop me from going all the way!" the 43-year-old actress concluded as she called herself 'Chhavi 2.0'. In April 2022, Chhavi Mittal revealed that she was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer. She underwent a six-hour-long surgery and was later declared cancer-free.



In 2023, Chhavi Mittal spoke exclusively to News18 Showsha when she revealed that while her husband, Mohit Hussein understood the situation, conveying the cancer news to their daughter Areeza, who was just 9 years old then, wasn't easy. I spoke to Areeza. I sat down with her and told her, 'Your mom is sick and she needs to go to the hospital for a few days. She is going to get better and come back home.' She suddenly started crying and said, 'Mumma, do you have that?' I knew she was talking about cancer. I said, 'Yes'. I lost my nani to cancer. She [Areeza] knows it. She thought I was going to die. The only thing she knows about cancer is that it kills. She said, 'Are you not going to be able to swallow food? Are you going to die?' I said, 'No, it is not the same. Cancer can be different for different people. It is very different for me.



Sayani Gupta

Is Super Excited For Her Hollywood Project

Sayani Gupta, who was last seen in the Nandita Das-directed Zwigato, is all set for her upcoming ventures with Crimson Media and The SB Initiative. According to a Deadline report, the actor will be part of the project's worldwide representation. However, not much detail has been revealed about her future plans. Confirming the news herself, Sayani shared the news report on her Instagram handle and wrote, "Big news! Here it is. @suchirbatra @mpkniiaz14 are two amazing people. I am incredibly grateful for their support! #tonewbeginnings." Many, including her fans, took to the comment section and congratulated Sayani. Dharma Productions CEO, Apoorva Mehta wrote, "Congratulations!" while actor Sanjay Kapoor also reacted to the post.

Notably, this comes a few months after another Indian star, Rajshri Deshpande, was also signed for world representation.

Known for her performance in the Netflix show Trial By Fire, Rajshri had worked in all areas globally with the boutique management firm along with Goodman, Genow, Schenkman Smelkinson & Christopher.

More about Sayani Gupta

Best known for her roles in shows like Four More Shots Please!, Inside Edge and films including Parched, Jolly LLB 2, Article 15 and many more, Sayani Gupta began her career with Shonali Bose's Margarita with a Straw, which also premiered in Toronto in 2014 and won the NETPAC Award for top Asian film. Beside that, she also won the Lion Award and was nominated for an International Indian Film Academy Award for her performance in the socio-political drama, Article 15. Presently, the actress is producing and starring in the international horror thriller Tongue. The film is in the final stages of development and is scheduled to go on the floor later this year. Apart from that, she is also set to play the lead role in Suraiya, which is also expected to kick off this year.



He Creates A Safe Space': Actress Apoorva Arora On Working With Parikshit Joshi



Actress Apoorva Arora, who is receiving a lot of positive responses for her work in the recently released streaming show Family Aaj Kal has opened up about her experience of working with director Parikshit Joshi. The actress said that Parikshit creates a safe space for his actors while also giving them the space to be vulnerable for their character so that the emotions come through well on camera. Apoorva said, "It's a very liberating feeling for an actor when a director is so trusting and creates a safe space where you can not only get into the skin of the character but also be vulnerable in many ways." She further mentioned, "I'm really happy that I was able to live up to the expectations because I am always an actor to the director first and foremost. If my director is happy, I'm happy too."

Parikshit, who took to Instagram to thank her for the collaboration, called Apoorva his "first heroine", underlining the importance of their partnership to his career. The two have been best friends since their days in The Screen Patti and The Viral Fever. In an earlier Instagram post, Parikshit wrote, "You've been a part of a lot of my 'FIRSTS'... This is a special FIRST, and the fact that you're my FIRST HEROINE makes me happy and content." He expressed his gratitude for Apoorva's contribution to their projects, including the UPSC video and her roles in Family Aaj Kal.

Highlighting the seamless collaboration between the two, he said, "People say working with friends can be difficult but not when you are the friends. On the work front, Apoorva will next be seen in Rohan Sippy's directorial Unreal. The first time she got a role in a film was when she was 12. After that, she acted in various advertising campaigns and became a known face, especially through her advertisements for Glam Up and Cadbury Perk. Currently, Apoorva is one of the most sought-after faces. In 2012, she bagged the role of Explorer in Discovery Kids' documentary television series Mystery Hunters India. She is also a part of the YouTube channel FilterCopy. Her video Every School Romance, in which she acted alongside Rohan Shah, garnered 7.5 million views on YouTube within 5 days. She also acted in a college romance web series alongside Gagan Arora. She has also acted in a YouTube web series titled Wrong Number, with the character name Khushi

Amitabh Bachchan Says 'Aabhar' As He Drops Photo From Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award Ceremony



Amitabh Bachchan took to his Instagram handle on Thursday to share a picture from the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award ceremony, which was held in Mumbai on April 24. The megastar became the third recipient of the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Asha Bhosle. In the photo that Big B shared, he was seen receiving the award from singer Usha Mangeshkar, the third eldest Mangeshkar sibling. Padmini Kolhapure, Randeep Hooda and AR Rahman were also spotted in the picture. In the caption of his post, Amitabh expressed gratitude to the Mangeshkar family for the award and wrote, "Check it out here:

Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award is given every year to an individual for his/her path-breaking contribution towards the nation and society. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first recipient of this award in 2022, followed by Asha Bhosle in 2023. Accepting the award on Wednesday, Amitabh Bachchan remembered Lata Mangeshkar and shared that she always used to shower him with her love and affection. "The respect she bestowed us with is indescribable. I don't know what it was but there was so much love whenever she would meet me or the members of my family." It was Lata Mangeshkar who opened the gates for Bachchan to start performing at international shows, he said. Besides this, Big B also recited a Marathi poem in memory of the melody queen and remembered her as "Goddess Saraswati personified". The actor revealed that his poems, which were titled "Aakasha Chi Savri" or "Shadow of the Sky" (in English), were written by him with the help of a friend.