

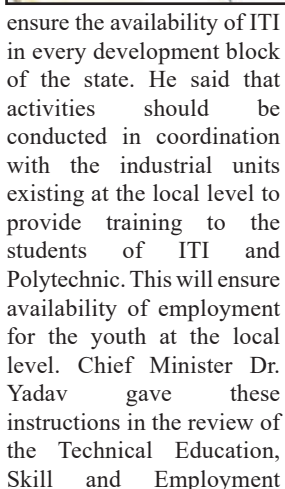


Ram Charan carries a cooker with him wherever he goes, shares wife Upasana Konidela:...

Temperatures cross 43 degrees in MP

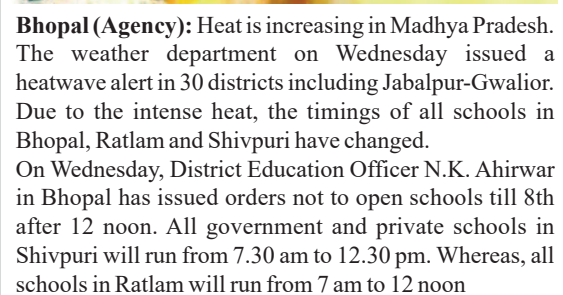
utility and employment potential should be conducted on a wide scale. Arrangements for skill training should be ensured as per the demand of existing industries in the state and the cooperation of the private sector should also be taken in providing training to the

available for persons skilled in German and Japanese languages. He directed that proper arrangements should be made in the state for training of those languages in which there is more possibility of employment opportunities. He also directed to ensure effective arrangements for providing practical training to the youth by linking technically skilled universities and private sector industrial units. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that this would provide skilled and efficient human resources to the industries of the state as per their requirement and the youth would be able to get employment at the local level. Skill development policy, merger of employment offices and skill development, Aarambh Shrutu program for identifying local and traditional methods were also reviewed in the meeting.



Singh Parmar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Employment (Independent Charge), Gautam Tetwal, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Rajoura and other departmental officers were present in the meeting held at Samatva Bhawan (Chief Minister's residence). Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment Department

employment, entrepreneurship and employment. He expressed dissatisfaction with the progress of the schemes and programs run in the department. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that result-oriented activities should be conducted by setting targets and time limits for skill development of youth and employment-oriented programs for them. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that there are ample employment opportunities



in a village under Madraak police station limits. The man, Sushant (name changed), is a resident of a neighbouring village. On Sunday morning, Sushant left his home after telling his father cryptically that "no one should try to contact him as he was embarking on a long journey." The concerned father contacted the bride's family, only to find that Sushant was not there, and neither was the bride's mother. Suspecting foul play, Sushant's father filed a missing person report at Madraak police station. Station House Officer Arvind Kumar said, "We have received a complaint and are conducting a search to locate the couple. Further action will be taken once they are found."

Lucknow: A 30-year-old woman with three children converted to Hinduism and married a 12th-grade student in a temple ceremony in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district on Wednesday, police officials said. According to Hasanpur Circle Officer Deep Kumar Pant, the woman, Shivani, was previously known as Shabnam. She has no living parents and has been married twice before. UP is a state which has an anti-conversion law in place. The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 bars religious conversion through force, deceit or any other fraudulent means. Police said they are currently reviewing the circumstances surrounding the marriage, but no legal complaints have been filed so far. The circle officer said that Shivani first married a man in Meerut, but the marriage ended in divorce. She then married Taufiq, a resident of Saidanwali village, who was left disabled after a road accident in 2011. Recently, she developed a relationship with a boy in Class 12 and aged around 18. Subsequently, Shabnam sought and obtained a divorce from Taufiq on Friday last week.

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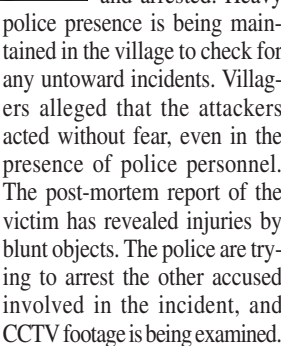
"You are all aware that the US Supreme Court has rejected his plea. As far as extradition of Rana is concerned, at this point, I do not have an update," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We will provide you an update at an appropriate time," he said while replying to a question during his weekly media briefing. Rana is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 attacks.

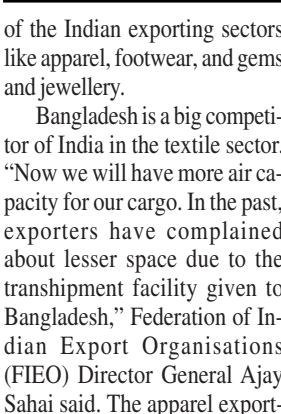
Hardoi (Agency): A 48-year-old man was lynched here in broad daylight allegedly by a group of people, including women, seeking revenge for a 2009 murder, the police said on Wednesday. The victim, Sarpanch Mahavat, was brutally attacked on Monday by a group of over three dozen men and women armed with sticks in Bhaigaon village under Beniganj police station limits. Mahavat was convicted of killing one Rampal in 2009 and had served a 13-year jail sentence. After his release, he had been earning a livelihood by working as a street vendor.

Hardoi Superintendent of Police Neeraj Kumar Jadaun said 18 people have been arrested based on CCTV footage and

eyewitness accounts. A case has been registered in this regard under relevant sections of BNS, including 190 (unlawful assembly), 191 (rioting), and 103 (murder), against 12 named and 25 to 30 unidentified persons at Beniganj police station. During the course of the investigation, six more have been identified and arrested. Heavy police presence is being maintained in the village to check for any untoward incidents. Villagers alleged that the attackers acted without fear, even in the presence of police personnel. The post-mortem report of the victim has revealed injuries by blunt objects. The police are trying to arrest the other accused involved in the incident, and CCTV footage is being examined.



The earlier circular had allowed transshipment of export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries using Indian Land Customs Stations (LCSs) en route to Indian ports and airports. According to trade experts, the decision will help many



ers' body AEPC has earlier urged the government to suspend this order, which allows the trans-shipment of Bangladesh export cargo to third countries through the Delhi Air Cargo complex.

AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri had stated that almost 20-30 loaded trucks arrive in Delhi

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said that the withdrawal of this facility is expected to disrupt Bangladesh's export and import logistics, which depend on Indian infrastructure for third-country trade.

“The previous mechanism had offered a streamlined route through India, cutting transit time and cost. Now, without it, Bangladeshi exporters may face logistical delays, higher costs, and uncertainty. Additionally, Nepal and Bhutan, both landlocked nations, may raise concerns about restricted transit access to Bangladesh, especially as this move will hamper their trade with Bangladesh,” Srivastava said.

He added that according to WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules, all members are required to allow freedom of transit for goods moving to and from landlocked countries. This means such transit must be unrestricted, free from unnecessary delays, and not subject to transit duties. Both India and Bangladesh are members of this Geneva-based organisation.

Kolkata (Agency): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday assured the minority community members that she will not allow “any divide and rule policy” to persist in the state. Addressing a programme of the Jain community in Kolkata, Banerjee referred to the disappointment of Muslims over the recently enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act and said she would protect all minority people and their properties.

"I know you are aggrieved because of the enactment of the Waqf Act. Have faith, nothing will happen in Bengal by which one can divide and rule," she said. "See the situation in Bangladesh. This (Waqf Bill) should have not been passed now," Banerjee said. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday and by the Rajya Sabha in the early hours of Friday after marathon debates in both Houses of Parliament. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill on Saturday.

Ahmedabad (Agency): Al-
leging that the BJP won the
Maharashtra Assembly polls
through a "fraud" like never be-

per", he said in his inaugural address at the session being held here on the banks of the Sabarmati river.

“What happened in



Maharashtra. We raised the issue everywhere, Rahul Gandhi raised the issue strongly. What kind of voter list they made... Maharashtra election was a fraud. The same thing happened

in Haryana," the Congress president said. Kharge pointed out that the BJP had won 90 per cent of the seats and said this had never happened before.

“There has never been a fraud like the one that happened in Maharashtra polls, which was aimed at destroying democracy,” Kharge charged. “We will find out about it. The thief always gets caught. Our lawyers and leaders are working for it. We are trying to find out that,” he said. Kharge said in the last 11 years, the ruling party had been attacking the Constitution. “Constitutional institutions and principles are being attacked and we have to fight to protect them,” Kharge

said. He alleged that the government ran Parliament's Budget session according to their whims and fancies. "The Speaker took the Leader of Opposition's name but did not let him speak. This is shameful in a democracy. If you do not allow LOP to speak, how will you let people raise their voice," Kharge said. Instead of debating issues of the people, the government conducted debate till late night for its agenda of communal polarisation. Kharge said in an apparent reference to the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. He pointed out that the debate on Manipur took place at 4 am and he requested that it be held the next day but the government did not agree, Kharge said and alleged that it seemed the government wanted to hide something.

Body found near railway track, accused arrested

Chunar police arrested accused who committed incident and recovered stone used in incident

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, On 08 April 2025 at police station Chunar district Mirzapur But Rahul Singh, son of the plaintiff against the 02 accused, was murdered by killing about 32 years old and throwing it on the banks of the railway track behind the Shivshankari Dham temple. On the basis of this, Mudh No. 167/2025 Section 103 (1) B.N.S. The investigation was started by registering. Instructions were given to unveil the incident as soon as possible by forming police teams under the leadership of jurisdictional Chunar. In the sequence of the above instructions, in the order of deliberation of the above prosecution registered at the police station Chunar, on the basis of the information received from the informer by the police team on



Additional Superintendent of Police Omprakash Singh giving information about the killers arrested by Chunar police

Wednesday, on the basis of information received from the informer, the police station Chunar police team on Wednesday, Shivshankari Dham Andar Pass Parsodha Bridge Among the two accused related to the incident from below, Ashish Kumar Singh son Ashok Kumar Singh and Mahendra Kumar Singh son Ramashankar Singh resident Shivajipuram Calhat police station Chunar district Mirjapur were arrested. On the behest of the arrested accused, a uniquely used stone stone used in the incident was recovered. Mudi No.-167/2025 Section 103 (1), 3 (5) In BNS,

registered at police station Chunar, taking advance legal action as per rules The arrested accused are being sent to court/jail. During interrogation by the arrested accused Ashish Kumar Singh, it was told that Rahul Singh (deceased) loved the girl from the locality, which Rahul used to oppose. The accused Ashish, along with his partner Mahendra Kumar Singh, took Rahul Singh with him on the pretext of watching the Shivshankari Dham Mela in a planned manner. Shivshankari Dham Temple Near the railway track behind, Rahul was fed liquor and was killed by stoned when he was in a drunken state.

Admin takes tough stance on illegal mining and transport

The team of mining officer and ARTO enforcement raided, led by SDM Sadar, a Hiva Sewage



On receiving the complaint, SDM Sadar Gulab Chandra raided the illegal mining site

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, On the complaint of illegal mining and transportation of illegal mining and transport in many places in the district, District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana taking a tough stand and strict action by preventing illegal mining and transportation and identifying the miners and taking strict action The order was given to the concerned officer. In order of the order of the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Shiv Pratap Shukla has directed to take effective action by constituting a team under the leadership of Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Gulab Chandra. In order of the said instructions, raids were conducted on the Barkachha Kala Highway with the Deputy District Magistrate Sadar team. Caesar proceedings when an overloaded hiva truck is found

transporting an overloaded highway truck during raids Has been done. In this sequence, SDM Sadar carried out the proceedings by reaching the spot on the complaint of illegal sand mining in Ganganadi, declared a tortoise century in Jigna police station area. On seeing the team, a dozen sailors managed to leave their boats and managed to flee. SDM Sadar told that in this regard, the officials of the bun department have directed that illegal mining in the tortoise century area Be sure to impose a ban. In this regard, Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Gulab Chandra told that action will be taken against those who illegal mining and transportation. No such element will be spared. During the raid, senior mining officer Jitendra Singh, ARTO Enforcement, Inspector in-charge should be present with the police force.

Namokar Mahamantra World Day was organized

Staff Reporter
Banda. On Wednesday, Namokar Mahamantra World Day was organized in the Jain temple located in Chhoti Bazar of the city, in which Jain followers reached the temple and chanted and recited this Mahamantra. Let us tell you that Vishwa Namokar Mahamantra was

organized in 108 countries of the world, which went on simultaneously from 8.30 am to 9.30 am. This program has been organized for world peace and world welfare. In this Mahamantra, all the Arihants, all the Siddhas, all the Acharyas, all the Upadhyayas and all the Sadhus have been praised.



Chanting this mantra gives mental, spiritual peace and

energy flows in the body. This day encourages all people to reflect on the values of self-purification, tolerance and collective welfare, people from more than 108 countries participated in this chanting for peace and unity. So that peace and goodwill remain in the world. On this occasion

President Prakash Chand Jain, Manager Sahab, General Secretary Yogesh Jain, Prakash Jain Dada, Ashok Jain, Dinesh Jain, Ratnesh Jain, Rajendra Jain, Surendra Jain, Tinkle Jain, Rahul Jain, Santosh Jain, Media Incharge Dilip Jain etc. and a large number of women were present.

Conference of active members of Majhwan Vidhan Sabha concluded, show of strength

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, The conference of active members of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Majhwan Assembly was held at Kaveri lawn in Deori Amghat. The program was inaugurated by Majhwan MLA Shuchismita Maurya, former District President Manoj Jaiswal and Chairman Shyam Sundar Kesari. The three speakers in turn on their subject Discussed in detail. For the first time, former District President Manoj Jaiswal, keeping his subject of change brought by BJP in Indian politics, said that innumerable dedicated workers including Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani have played an important role in strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party. Later, in 1980, the sun will emerge, the sun will come out, the BJP emerged with the announcement of lotus. Your punch loyalty, On the strength of the methodology, dedicated workers, the BJP is more than two MPs to the largest political party in the world. On April 06, the Bharatiya Janata Party has the distinction of being the largest political party in the whole world, including a country with a 45-year democratic process. Thereafter, Shyam Sundar

Kesari, President, discussed the expansion of the BJP's election and organization and said that today after 45 years, the party center Apart from this, the government is in power in more than 20 states or is running the

eldest two warriors of this war, implement it. Subsequently, in her address, Majhavan MLA Mrs. Shuchismita Maurya, while discussing the achievements of the Center and State Government, developed

India And in the form of a skilled leadership, Narendra Modi made his debut and the torch of national and cultural renaissance started burning in the heart of the people. Further discussion on the schemes also said that women have been empowering the country, goodness of women. Former District President Anil Singh, who is presiding over the conference at the end of the program, announced the conclusion of the program, thanking all the active members who came. The program was conducted by District General Secretary Ravi Shankar Pandey. In the said conference, district minister Pramod Kumar Singh, District Media In-charge Gyan Prakash Dubey, District Media cum In-Charge Pranesh Pratap Singh, District Office Minister Shivshaan Rai, Block Chief Indra Bahadur Pandey, Satendra Bahadur Singh, former District Vice President BJP Vidyadhar Tiwari Mandal President BJP Akash Singh, Pawan Kumar Upadhyay, Ashok Hundreds of active members were present along with Maurya, JP Bind, Suresh Singh. The above information was given by District Media in-charge Gyan Prakash Dubey.



BJP officials inaugurating the conference of active members of Majhwan Vidhan Sabha by lighting the lamp

government with its allies. The central leadership of the BJP believes that the BJP is yet to be expanded. In the last 08 years, the pair of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have brought the party to the summit. Today BJP is the most special, largest and most influential political party in India. Therefore, the BJP proudly claims that the world according to membership Is the biggest political party. In such a situation, election is a war for the BJP, it is not just an election jumla. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, the

India in 11 years with the third subject Narendra Modi, said that India's The last eleven years have passed through many specific changes and challenges. The tradition of growing gunpowder instead of saffron in the beds of Kashmir, the tradition of knocking the door of the West in the hour of crisis. The lack of cultural identity in the Indians, as the answer to all these questions, will be remembered for many years in history. When cultural and nationalist consciousness flag bearer on the table of

Mirjapur Vindhyachal Development Authority Board meeting held



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi meeting Mirzapur-Vindhyachal Development Authority's Board

Effective action should be taken on illegal constructions via NGT : Commissioner

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, A meeting of the Mirzapur Vindhyachal Development Authority Board was convened at the Commissioner's Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Vindhyachal Mandal Balakrishna Tripathi. Villagers coming under the Development Authority in the meeting and Development works in urban areas were directed to be done on priority. On this occasion, a review was also reviewed regarding the work done in the past and the

amount spent on it and directed to complete the ongoing development work in time with quality. The Board Commissioner said that without passing the map and the other illegal construction works being done under the NGT on the banks of the Ganges and the construction works being done Giving notice, effective action should be taken as per rules. In the meeting, the budget presented for various works was also approved by the Mirzapur Vindhyachal Development Authority Board. District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana, Municipal Magistrate Vineet Kumar Upadhyay, Additional Director Treasury and all officials of Mirzapur Vindhyachal Development Authority Board were present in the meeting.

Divisional Commissioner holds review meet of works related to Water Life Mission

People should be made aware about importance of water : Commissioner

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, A divisional review meeting of the works related to the Water Life Mission was convened in the Commissioner's Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of the Board Commissioner Vindhyachal Mandal Balakrishna Tripathi. Main in the meeting Development Officer Mirjapur Vishal Kumar, Sonbhadra Jagriti Awasthi, Bhadohi Shivakant Dwivedi, Additional District Magistrate Namami Gange Mirjapur Devendra Pratap Singh, Joint Development Commissioner Ramesh

Chandra and other concerned officers and officials of the executive organization should be present. Directing all the working organizations, the Board Commissioner said that every house should take special care of the quality in the work being done under the water scheme, if During the inspection, strict action will be taken against the concerned if the quality is found to be satisfactory. He said that the executive is laying the pipeline under this scheme or has been laid down, ensure that the roads dug should get 100 percent repair, the Chief Development Officer Mirjapur informed the Board Commissioner that the roads were not repaired correctly. On which the Board Commissioner gave the three districts Directing the Chief Development Officers, the

roads which have not been repaired after inspection. Ensure work by directing the executive body from your level. In the work done by the



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi holding a divisional review meeting of water-life mission works

executive body Megha in Mirjapur, it was told that the roads have not been repaired, on which the Divisional Commissioner directed that the place where the place has been done should be repaired immediately. Directing Chief

Development Officer Bhadohi, he said that after inspecting all the works under the water scheme, all the works should be

98 percent work has been completed by NCC which has been completed by NCC which has been completed But while directing the Divisional Commissioner, he said that the roads which are left to be repaired should ensure that all those roads be completed at the earliest. On slowing down progress by GVPR, the executive body in Mirjapur, the Mandalayukta directed the executive body to ensure that the work should be completed in a month by increasing the number of labor. He directed all the working organizations and said that If the connection is not made under every water scheme in Anganwadi and schools in the board, then be sure to get it done immediately. He directed Additional District Magistrate Namami Gange Mirjapur and said that the roads and leakage pipeline

should be inspected and ensured to fix it. He said that the time of water coming and going to all the places where a water tank was installed, and the related operator number is ensured Do He also told people about the usefulness of water through slogans that it is coming to drink water and do not take any other use. He said that the officials of the concerned department should also do water testing from time to time whether water is potable or not. He said that if any working organization is facing any kind of difficulty in working, then inform the concerned Chief Development Officer so that The problem can be resolved. He said that where there is a need to install a both pump, be sure to install immediately so that people who are not getting water can also be made available.

BRIEFS

Sanika Amit on mastering a Tamil accent for Radha on COLORS

Staff Reporter

Varanasi: In today's world, actors constantly take up challenges to make their characters feel real, and Sanika Amit is no exception. As Mangal Lakshmi continues to captivate audiences, Sanika embraced the challenge of portraying Radha, a Tamil-speaking woman, to bring depth to the current track. With Kartik (played by Shubham Dipta) suffering from memory loss and now married to Radha, she is determined to win back his love while protecting her home from Jiya's schemes. To make her performance authentic, Sanika worked hard to perfect the Tamil accent and mannerisms, ensuring that Radha's struggles and emotions resonate with the audience, making her character look even more real and relatable.



Sanika Amit playing the role of Radha in COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi' shares, 'This transformation has been very interesting for me. Radha has that quirk, she brings comic relief to the character, and I get to express the role in a fun way. Her look is also very distinct—a typical South Indian appearance, slightly darker complexion, making her appear almost unrecognizable from Lakshmi. But it was quite a challenge because playing a South Indian maid meant I had to work on my accent and pronunciation. A huge part of embodying the character's soul was perfecting her Tamil accent. I wanted it to feel effortless, not performative, because language is more than just words—it carries emotion, culture, and identity. I even learned some prominent Tamil words like Maggikkavum (Sorry), Nagri (Thank You) from different videos to make the character more authentic and catchier. Radha's journey has just begun, and I'm excited to know what the audience think of her!'

Heatwave, advisory issued to protect from heat

Staff Reporter

Banda. In view of the continuously increasing heat in the district, the district administration has issued an advisory and appealed to the people of the district to avoid the effects of increasing temperature and heat in the first week of April. It has been said that to avoid heat, take rest in between hard work. Rest in the shade, sit. Drink water even if you do not feel like feeling thirsty. Take a bath if the body feels too hot. Do not exercise in extreme heat. Wear light colored or white colored cotton clothes. Eat nutritious food. Eat juicy fruits like watermelon, chimdi, cucumber. Do not drink tea, coffee. Instead, use curd, buttermilk and lassi. It was also told that the symptoms affected by heat (heat stroke) include increased body temperature and no sweating. Headache or heaviness in the head, vomiting, diarrhea, fainting, muscle cramps, dry skin and redness of the skin. Apart from this, he told that the first aid for heat stroke is to take the person to a shady and cool place. Immediately dial 108 and take him to the nearest health center in an ambulance. If he is not unconscious, give him cold water to drink. Keep wet clothes or sponges. And remove the clothes from the body. Let the body get air from the fan. Spray water on the body. Make the person sleep by keeping his legs up. The District Disaster Management Authority ran a heat wave public awareness campaign, by setting up a heat wave camp, the people of the district were given suggestions and precautions to avoid heat wave. The people of the district were alerted to avoid heat. The heat wave camp was observed by District Disaster Specialist Prabhakar Singh. With the help of Junior Clerk of Natural Disaster Vinod Kumar, Mithlesh Singh, Chandra Sen Singh, Deepak Kumar, Raja Bhaiya, they helped in running the public awareness campaign.

Weapons fired to the tune of DJ, four referred to Kanpur

Staff Reporter

Kurara. In Jalala village of the police station area, a dispute arose between two parties over playing songs on a DJ. The dispute escalated so much that both the parties attacked each other with sticks and axes. According to the information, Gorelal and Shivam were playing songs at their door. Meanwhile, neighbor Kallu started abusing them. When the matter escalated, a fight broke out between the two parties. When Shivam's mother came to intervene, she was also beaten up. Four people were seriously injured in this violent clash. Kurara police station took all the injured to the district hospital in an ambulance. Due to their critical condition, all the injured have been referred to Kanpur. Police informed through social media cell that necessary action is being taken on the complaint of the victim side.

Wanted accused arrested

Staff Reporter

Kurara. The wanted accused, a resident of Musa Nagar town of Kanpur Dehat district was arrested by the police station. The police arrested him from near the Degree College located in Mishri Pur village of the area and presented him in the court. A case has been registered in Kurara police station against Shirram Sahu, son of Jangli Prasad Sahu, resident of Ward No. 9 of Musa Nagar town of Kanpur Dehat district. In which he was wanted. Crime Inspector Ramkumar Yadav, Sub-Inspector Rinku Tiwari, Constable Shivam Kumar, Vijay Kumar arrested him from near Rajaram Degree College near Mishri Pur village last evening and presented him in the court today.

BRIEFS

Haldiram Foods and Haldiram Snacks Private Limited merged

New Delhi (Agency). The formation of Haldiram Snacks Food Private Limited has been completed by merging the Nagpur and Delhi branches of Haldiram. Haldiram Foods International Private Limited and Haldiram Snacks Private Limited have become one with this merger. A senior official of the company said that this is an important step and an introduction to emotional unity. With this merger, Haldiram will now produce snacks and namkeen together. The Delhi unit has a 56 percent stake and the remaining 44 percent stake is with the Nagpur branch. This formation is expected to provide new decisions and growth paths to the Indian packaged food industry. Traders believe that the valuation of this deal is close to US \$ 10 billion. The development journey of this food product started in Rajasthan in 1937 by Haldiram's founder Ganga Bishan Agarwal is now continuing in more than 80 countries.

Maruti Suzuki launches new Grand Vitara

New Delhi (Agency). Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has launched the Grand Vitara in a new avatar. The new model has a starting price of Rs 11.42 lakh, and it is a combination of petrol engine and lithium-ion battery powered electric motor that delivers better mileage and better performance. The new Grand Vitara has been added with many new and premium features, such as wireless connectivity, SmartPlay Pro Plus infotainment system, head-up display, 360 degree camera, and wireless charging dock. Along with this, from the safety point of view, this vehicle is also equipped with modern features, such as ESP, ABS, EBD, and other safety technologies.

Vedanta looking for a global partner

New Delhi (Agency). Mining company Vedanta is looking for a global partner for its \$ 20 billion expansion projects in various sectors. According to the company, this move is in line with Vedanta's strategic plan under which it will expand its operations significantly in the next three years. Under this, the company will restructure its business into four units Vedanta Aluminum, Oil & Gas, Power and Iron & Steel. According to the information, we are looking for an experienced global engineering company which has experience in Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) and which can act as an extended office for us to execute our projects. The company said that it will spend US \$ 20 billion on development projects in the metal, mining and hydrocarbon sector in the next three years. These projects are an expansion of its existing operations. Interested companies have been invited to provide information about their relevant experience, 'profile' and ongoing projects.

After Trump's tariff, now Saudi Arabia has cut rates, crude oil prices fall



New Delhi (Agency). The world is once again heading towards recession, the reason for this is Trump's imposition of tariffs on all countries. Uncertainty over tariffs and rate cuts by Saudi Arabia have led to a decline in crude oil prices and it has reached a 4-year low. Brent crude has fallen by 3.5 percent to reach the level of \$ 60.60 per barrel. At the same time, crude USD is at \$ 57.28 per barrel. According to commodity market experts, crude oil prices have fallen due to demand concerns due to the increasing tariff war between the US and China and the rate cut by Saudi Arabia. Crude oil prices will continue to trade in the red and may touch the level of \$ 52 per barrel. In such a situation, the risk of recession in the world may increase. According to the report, the commodity and currency head at HDFC Securities said that crude oil prices reached a four-year low. The major reason for this is the intensification of trade war between the US and China, due to which concerns about recession and weak demand have increased. He said that Saudi Arabia's announcement to increase production and reduce oil prices is also a reason for the sharp fall in crude oil prices. In the report, a Chinese expert said that China's aggressive retaliation on tariffs has reduced the chances of a deal between the world's two largest economies, raising fears of a global economic slowdown. Another move that added to oil's decline was the decision last week by OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and allies including Russia to increase production by 411,000 barrels per day in May. Analysts say this move could lead to a surplus situation in the market.

The fight to remain ‘small’: Micro segment players, mid-sized firms spar over MSME classification tweak in Budget

New Delhi (Agency): The Union government's decision to revise the classification criteria for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), effective April 1, has created unease among some representative bodies, who argue the revision will have an “adverse impact” on micro and small firms. Announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in February, the revision increased the investment cap for each of the three segments by 2.5 times and the turnover



previously medium-sized are now small enterprises, while some small firms are now micro enterprises. In India, micro and small enterprises

benefit from a 25 per cent public procurement quota impact of above enhancements on micro and small-scale units who constitute about 99.99 per cent of MSMEs whereas handful of medium level units as they are less than 0.01 per cent are expected to corner such benefits,” the letter to SCL Das, MSME Secretary, said. “Hence, revision of classification of MSMEs at this stage will not serve any useful purpose and it is requested to restore the existing criteria for the time being,” it added. The MSME ministry did not respond to requests for comment. Prior

to April 1, micro enterprises were defined as those with investments up to Rs 1 crore and annual turnover up to Rs 5 crore. The threshold for small enterprises was Rs 10 crore in investment and Rs 50 crore in turnover, while for medium enterprises, it was Rs 50 crore in investment and Rs 250 crore in turnover. In her Budget speech, Sitharaman said the investment and turnover limits will be enhanced to give MSMEs “the confidence to grow and generate employment for our youth”.

Continuous stormy rise in the shares of NACL Industries

Mumbai (Agency). Continuous stormy rise in the shares of agrochemical company NACL Industries is continuously showing a stormy rise. The company's shares rose 5 percent to Rs 156.55 on Wednesday. The company's shares have risen by more than 133 percent in the last one month. NACL Industries shares have increased from Rs 67 to Rs 155 during this period. Group company Coromandel International is buying 53 percent stake in agrochemical company NACL Industries (earlier name Nagarjuna

Agrichem). Coromandel International has signed definitive agreements on



March 12 to buy stake in NACL Industries. Coromandel International is buying this stake at the price of Rs 76.70 per share. The company is buying this stake for Rs 820 crore. Coromandel International will buy these shares from the company's current promoter KLR

Products Limited. NACL Industries is a crop protection company and has a strong branded formulation business in the country. NACL Industries shares have seen tremendous growth in the last five years. The shares of this smallcap company have jumped more than 566 percent in five years. NACL Industries shares were at Rs 23.50 on 9 April 2020. The company's shares have reached Rs 156.55 on 9 April 2025. NACL Industries shares have jumped more than 81 percent in the last two years.

Zomato senior management exit: Rinshul Chandra resigns as COO of food delivery



New Delhi (Agency): Food delivery platform operator Zomato announced the exit of its chief operating officer, Rinshul Chandra, in a company filing on April 5. In the announcement, Zomato shared that Chandra was resigning with effect from April 5, 2025, and his last working day will be April 7, 2025. The company also attached his resignation letter addressed to Zomato founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal. Addressing Goyal as Deepi, Chandra wrote “I am writing to resign as COO – Food Ordering & Delivery Business of Eternal Ltd.” The outgoing COO of Zomato said he has decided to pursue “new opportunities and passions that align with my evolving personal and professional goals.” Chandra thanked Goyal for his trust and support during his 7-year tenure with the company. Chandra's is the latest instance of a high-level exit from Eternal, the holding company of Zomato, quick commerce platform Blinkit and booking app District. Zomato also let go of staffers from its customer support team last month. These exits have taken place against the backdrop of Zomato gradually turning profitable, undergoing a rebranding exercise and implementing AI-related solutions for its customer services. More recently, the company has witnessed some stress with respect to the scope for expansion of its food delivery business as well as high costs incurred in its quick commerce delivery arm. Having completed his early schooling from Patna, Chandra moved to Delhi for higher secondary education. He graduated from IIT Kharagpur with a dual degree in chemical engineering in 2014. Prior to Zomato, now rebranded Eternal, Chandra has two brief stints — as a process engineer with energy giant Shell and then as founding Team member and head of product at Magicpin, according to his LinkedIn profile. He joined Zomato as assistant vice president, product in 2018 and gradually rose the ranks to become the head of business at Zomato Everyday in 2022. He became COO of food delivery at Zomato in 2023. Zomato laid off 500 staffers who were part of its Associate Accelerator Programme last month, Outlook Business reported, citing people with knowledge of the matter. The firings follow the launch of Zomato's Nugget platform for customer support which is powered by AI, according to the report. Nugget reportedly clears up to 80 per cent of customer queries across Zomato, Blinkit and Hyperpure verticals, according to the report. The layoffs may have been prompted by a slowdown in the company's food delivery arm and is quick commerce arm Blinkit racking up losses, according to the report.

US buyers seek price cuts, freeze orders, exporters turn to Centre for relief

New Delhi (Agency): WITH US buyers pushing for discounts and, in most cases, placing orders on hold following President Donald Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs, Indian exporters are learnt to have approached the government for relief, seeking additional fund allocations, lower interest rates on loans, and expansion of export credit insurance to cover even pending deliveries, in a bid to retain their foothold in the US market. While the 10 per cent baseline tariffs for all countries came into effect from April 5, the 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs imposed on India kick in on Wednesday. Indicating that lower reciprocal tariffs may not be an absolute advantage, exporters expressed concern about emerging competitors — such as Kenya for tea

exports, Japan and South Korea for machinery, Ecuador for marine products and Turkey for apparel — who may gain ground due to a duty advantage in the US market. These countries are not traditional rivals, but may now eat into India's share, exporters said. Although reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods are lower as compared to several manufacturing-centric countries, many exporters are facing uncertainty as contracts are set to be renegotiated. US buyers are pushing for a duty pass-through, which could result in an additional 13 per cent duty burden on Indian products — potentially wreaking havoc on low-margin exports like apparel and marine goods. “All orders to the US are on hold as fresh calculations on

the impact of the duty need to be done. Buyers and sellers may renegotiate the contract and share the duty. Since the reciprocal tariff on India is 26 per cent, the burden will



likely be split between the two. But the problem is that several products — such as apparel, leather and marine goods — have low margins and may not be able to absorb the cost,” said Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations

(FIEO). Meanwhile, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has projected that India could see a decline of \$5.76 billion, or

6.41 per cent, in exports to the US in 2025. According to official US data, India exported goods worth \$89.81 billion to the US in FY24. The think tank estimated that exports of fish and crustaceans may fall by 20 per cent, iron or steel articles by 18 per cent, and

diamonds, gold, and related products by 15.3 per cent. “Vehicle and parts exports are projected to drop by 12.1 per cent, while electrical, telecom and electronic products may decline by 12 per cent. Other categories such as plastics and articles thereof (-9.4 per cent), carpets (-6.3 per cent), petroleum products (-5.2 per cent), organic chemicals (-2.2 per cent) and machinery (-2.0 per cent) are also expected to be negatively impacted,” it said. Sahai said exporters would require government support in the form of interest equalisation and the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to tide over the situation, at least until India signs a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US.

Govt to progressively restrict exempt status for PF trusts

New Delhi (Agency): The Labour and Employment Ministry is considering slowly phasing out the system of exempted establishments or exempted provident fund trusts under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), especially for non-compliance with the PF body's norms, government sources said. Though in its initial stage, the consideration has been prompted by a rise in applications for surrender of exempt status by such PF trusts. This has prompted additional measures from the government for verification and audit of exempted establishments to ensure compliance by them. There have been instances when some trusts run by companies have not maintained their corpus properly or fallen short of the required compliance norms, and then surrendered their exempted status. “This

creates liability then for the government to fulfill the payment obligations of these exempted establishments. That's why we are undertaking verification and



audit of such trusts. Slowly we'll move away from this system,” a government official said. In financial year 2024-25, around 33 exempted establishments have surrendered their exempt status, over 73 per cent increase from 19 establishments that had surrendered in the previous financial year 2023-24. As of March 31, 2023, there were

1,002 exempted establishments managing a corpus of Rs 3.52 lakh crore of Rs 31.20 lakh members. Exempted establishments maintain their own provident

funds from the EPF contribution from their employees and are required to comply with 31 terms and conditions as detailed in Section 27AA of the EPF Scheme, 1952. They are required to provide interest rate at the same level as announced by the EPFO and deposit only the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) component of the employees' contribution

with the EPFO. The EPFO had mandated the exempted establishments to file mandatory monthly returns in 2014. The requirement for online filing of monthly returns was mandated in March 2017. The EPFO has been undertaking a monthly ranking exercise for exempted establishments since July 2017, according to which companies are ranked out of a total score of 600 based on various compliance requirements. 100 points each are allotted for transfer of fund before due date, investment, remittance to the trust, interest declared, claim settlement and audit of accounts, taking the total score to 600. Several exempted establishments have been approaching the EPFO for surrendering their exempt status. In August 2024, the EPFO had launched an online module for surrender of exemption by

There have been instances when some trusts run by companies have not maintained their corpus properly or fallen short of the required compliance norms, and then surrendered their exempted status.

establishments to ensure ease of doing business and reduce the time and effort by

providing facilities such as applications and transfer of online submission of past accumulations of the application, validation of members.

EPFO subscribers can now use face authentication to activate UAN

EPFO subscribers will now be able to generate and activate Universal Account Number (UAN) using face authentication. Given the retirement fund body has been facing issues in many cases such as non-availability of mobile number of the subscriber in the EPF database and mismatch errors in personal details despite Aadhaar linkage, the new process would be making use of the Aadhaar-linked Face Authentication Technology (FAT) to generate UAN using the government's UMANG application. “Both employers and employees can generate UAN through face activation now. This would be similar to the technology used in the Digi Yatra app. The photo will be matched with the Aadhaar database and after successful matching with the database, the UAN will be sent by SMS,” Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. This marks another major simplification measure announced by the Employees'

Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the last fortnight. Last week, the EPFO had introduced two key changes — removal of requirement to upload image of cheque leaf / attested bank passbook, and doing away with the need for employer approval for seeding bank account details with UAN. Under the face authentication measure, EPFO will provide service for allotment and activation of UAN for its subscribers. This would be a key step towards contactless, secure, and fully digital service delivery for crores of members, the Labour and Employment Ministry said. Using the EPFO's UMANG application, employees can directly generate UAN using Aadhaar-linked face authentication. Any employer can also use the same UMANG app to generate UAN using the face authentication option for any new employees. Existing members who already have a UAN but have not yet activated it can also activate their UAN using the UMANG app.

EDITORIAL

Real lessons needed

School reforms start with basics, not banners

Punjab's government schools, long plagued by infrastructure decay, teacher shortages and poor learning outcomes, are in urgent need of a meaningful turnaround. The recent assignment of AAP leader Manish Sisodia — known for transforming Delhi's education landscape — to oversee Punjab's education affairs raised hopes of substantive change. But the early signs are not encouraging. The recent initiative of unveiling school plaques in a PR-heavy manner does little to address the deep-rooted problems. Spending public money on cosmetic refurbishments or nameplates for newly declared "schools of eminence" cannot substitute for genuine improvements in infrastructure or classroom learning. Even the bureaucratic mentorship scheme lacks clarity, strategy and measurable goals. Without a proper vision or roadmap, such efforts risk becoming exercises in political optics.

Punjab's education system requires reform at the foundational level. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 for Rural India, only 34 per cent of Class III students in rural government schools can read a Class II-level text. In terms of arithmetic, just about 51 per cent can do basic subtraction. These figures paint a worrying picture. Unless these core deficiencies are tackled, any revamp will be superficial at best. Delhi's transformation wasn't built on slogans; it relied on sustained budgetary support, rigorous teacher training and community engagement. Punjab must follow suit — investing in basic amenities like toilets, clean drinking water, digital tools and school libraries. Attracting and retaining qualified teachers is equally critical.

The goal must be to improve learning outcomes, not just the look of schools. Publicity blitzes may garner attention, but only well-planned, data-backed interventions can rescue Punjab's school system from decades of neglect. If Sisodia genuinely wants to replicate Delhi's model, he must begin by empowering educators, involving local communities and focussing on what matters most — the schoolchildren.

Tariff bloodbath

Trade war looms as China confronts Trump

US President Donald Trump's tariff onslaught and China's retaliation have taken their toll on global stocks, igniting fears of a prolonged, full-blown trade war that could hit economic growth worldwide. Shares nosedived as fear and uncertainty triggered massive sell-offs on Monday. Investors felt the heat in India too as they were left poorer by Rs 20 lakh crore in the morning itself as benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced a drubbing. The battle lines are set to harden as China has decided to red-flag US reciprocal tariffs as a "new trade concern" at a WTO meeting on April 9. Beijing has signalled its intent to build a broad coalition to jointly oppose unilateralism and protectionism, and safeguard the international trading system.

The million-dollar questions is: Will Trump negotiate or continue with economic bullying? The US President is not one to back off once he has set forth on a course, no matter how perilous or reckless. The onus will be on other nations to fall in line – how long they can hold out will depend on their ability to hit back. Looking at the larger picture of India-US trade ties, Delhi has chosen negotiations over confrontation. However, investors' growing panic has added to the pressure on India to work out a reasonable deal sooner rather than later. There is a possibility that Trump may not be able to sustain his blitzkrieg if China and other nations up the ante. Ironically, the US President is creating a situation detrimental to his own country. According to an analysis by The Budget Lab at Yale University, retaliatory tariffs could cost the average American household up to \$4,200 annually. The spectre of recession and higher inflation is looming large in the US. Countries like India are hoping that international as well as domestic pressure will make Trump realise his monumental folly and stop him from triggering greater economic chaos.

Delhi CM inaugurates slum development projects

New Delhi (Agency): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday inaugurated new development projects and inspected ongoing ones in the Shalimar Bagh Assembly constituency. She highlighted that a special allocation of Rs 700 crore has been made to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), specifically for slum improvement.

Gupta reiterated that the Delhi government is fully committed to providing all basic amenities to slum residents.

She also reviewed projects related to water supply, roads, sanitation, urban development, drainage systems, electricity, and civic amenities across various areas of the constituency.

The CM's inspection aimed to identify public grievances firsthand and ensure their prompt resolution.

Officials from all relevant departments, including PWD, DJB, MCD, DDA, IFCD, and Tata Power Limited, were present during the visit. The CM directed them to ensure the timely completion of works with strict adherence to quality standards.

Gupta affirmed the

government's resolve to extend the benefits of development to every street and neighborhood, ensuring a dignified, beautiful, and comfortable life for every citizen.

She criticized the previous government for neglecting these communities and accused it of using them merely as vote banks.

Gupta asserted that the current government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is determined to bring about real, ground-level transformation.

Notably, on Tuesday, newly constructed works in 40 lanes of the Ayurvedic Camp area, developed by DUSIB, were officially completed and handed over for public use. She further elaborated on a special government initiative for slum residents, aimed at providing clean, safe housing along with enhanced infrastructure. The scheme includes paved roads, proper drainage systems, children's play parks, schools for girls, and access to clean drinking water. The CM also visited Lane No. 1 in Shalimar village, where she directed MCD officials to carry out necessary repairs.

From Hyderabad University land row, a question: Is short-term profit more important than long-term excellence?

Ramvilas Sharma

“On the one hand, the university has been climbing in the rankings and on the other, its space is shrinking

Hyderabad Central University, also known as the University of Hyderabad, came into existence in 1974 by an Act of Parliament. It is the only institution of higher education that is mentioned in Article 371E of the Constitution. The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi instructed the government of Andhra Pradesh to allot land for the university and more than 2,300 acres were given. Almost immediately, the first vice-chancellor built a boundary wall by spending more than Rs 2 crore. The university soon excelled in research, teaching, and experiments that provided quality education. However, the legal rights over land are neither transferred nor registered to the university. As the university was located on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, few anticipated that the cost of land would skyrocket as it has. From the 1990s, the growing corporate capital and rapid urbanisation led to an increase in the price of land. Now, several moneyed interests are eyeing the land. Initially, some acres were allotted for public utilities roads, a sports stadium etc. This gave way gradually to public-private partnerships and now, the auctioning of 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli within the boundary wall of the University is the source of a confrontation between the Telangana government and university administration. There is conflicting information around the land survey and topography demarcation. Cases have been filed and the police deployed against protesting students. The confrontation between stakeholders from the university and state government is based on the fact that of the total of 2,300 acres, more than 800 acres were given away and of the 1,500 acres left, 400 acres are being auctioned off. This leaves just 1100 acres for the university to grow. On the one hand, the university has been climbing in the rankings and on the other, its space is shrinking. HCU has made a mark globally due to the consistent efforts of academics to publish hundreds of articles every year in top-rated global journals in the world, presenting papers in international conferences and policy consultations at the state, national and international levels.

Recognising its potential, both national and international organisations including private bodies have been extending financial assistance for academic activities. While utilising this support, the university needs to further excel in the academic world. This requires basic infrastructure in the form of well-equipped classrooms, laboratories, and field areas for experiments. The shrinking size of the university affects all of this. From the biodiversity point of view, there are about 233 varieties of birds and animals, including fish-eating eagles, peacocks, painted stork, spot-billed pelicans, Indian rock pythons, Bengal monitor lizards, deer, etc. There are about 40,000 plants and trees, water bodies, and rock formations, which all together reduce the temperature by 1-4 degrees compared to Hyderabad city. The greenness on the campus looks like an oasis in a concrete jungle – the surrounding areas are full of IT companies, multi-floor buildings, corporate hospitals, educational institutions, and commercial complexes.



Market slump sums up global chaos

Disruption to the international trade order will probably hurt the US more than the rest of the world

Ramvilas Sharma

AS global markets slump and India sees the most calamitous fall in equities since the Covid-19 pandemic, it is clear that US President Donald Trump's tariff offensive has swept the global economy into a state of uncertainty. The trade war seems to be imminent as China and Canada have fired the first round of retaliatory tariffs. The European Union has threatened to join the battle, while other countries are voicing anger over America's new policies. The immediate effect is on stock markets around the world, including Nasdaq, which has moved into the bear territory, while Asian markets are following suit. Crude oil prices have also dipped to around \$64 in reaction to a gloomy economic forecast.

The April 2 tariff rollout has wreaked havoc on the international economic system. In the midst of this crisis, India has maintained a low-key approach for the time being. The initial response was merely that the situation is being assessed in the backdrop of the bilateral trade pact talks. Meetings are also on the anvil with exporters to reassure them about the future outlook in relation to US trade.

The relatively mild approach can be linked to several factors. A bilateral trade agreement is actually on the table, despite the hard negotiations needed to make it a reality. This is a positive as Indian trade diplomacy has been successful over the years in safeguarding the country's interests, especially in sensitive areas like the dairy sector and foodgrains. At the World Trade Organisation (WTO), for instance, India managed to wrest concessions for its agriculture sector, overriding vociferous complaints by most developed economies. Much depends on the political will, but it is likely that the bilateral treaty will end up being balanced rather than tilted towards US interests.

The concept of balance, however, will have to undergo a change as the time has come to end blanket protection for even the so-called 'sensitive' sectors. Some farm experts are now arguing that there are areas even within agriculture where tariffs can be cut with minimal impact on producers. These include fruits and walnuts.

Similarly, irrationally high tariffs on goods not made here can be easily acceded to and in criticism of India's protectionism, the trajectory of India-US strategic relations looks set to improve considerably under this administration. Deepening of defence ties is clearly on the

tisans going back to rural areas. A dip in orders from the biggest market could worsen the job situation once again. Hopes are being pinned on the new trade deal, but that may be finalised only by September. So, there could be a crisis in the intervening months.

It is a mixed bag, however, with tariffs in some areas like apparel actually becoming lower than in other countries, prompting bigger orders from American buyers. Reports from apparel export hub Tirupur (Tamil Nadu) say Indian goods will be cheaper than those from competitors; hence, buyers are rushing to book more orders. The caveat is that there should be a discount to relieve customers there of the higher price burden.

This brings us to the fact that disruption to the settled international trade order will probably hurt the US economy more than the rest of the world. The crash on Wall Street and around the world is probably just the beginning of worse times ahead unless the Trump administration is able to provide some reassurance to the markets. Investment banks are already predicting higher chances of a recession. JP Morgan has raised the risk to 60 per cent from 40 per cent, citing "disruptive American politics". The firm estimates that the new tariffs would cost \$700 billion, but this assessment was made before China retaliated with a 34 per cent tariff hike on American goods.

A recession in the world's biggest economy is bad news for everyone, including India. It could reduce the growth momentum of the last few years as supply chains are likely to be disrupted and global consumption could plummet. Even now, the Indian economy's growth estimates are being pared down, with Goldman Sachs revising its forecast for the 2025-26 financial year to 6.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent.

What is equally worrying on the global stage is the disruption of the rules-based multilateral system that had been built after World War II following decades of negotiations. The WTO undeniably enabled the Global South to have a significant voice in the multilateral trade arena. The US has not always had its way here, which could be a factor for jettisoning the settled trade order.

For India, the repercussions of the trade war could be graver than those feared earlier. The immediate impact is on financial markets, but global recessionary trends could worsen the outlook. The wisest policy right now is to rapidly conclude bilateral trade treaties with giant trading partners like the European Union. At the same time, other export markets also need to be explored as retaliatory tariffs are shifting the dynamics of international trade. As for whether India loses or gains significantly in these global battles, a realistic assessment will only be possible after the dust settles down in the coming days.

Questions of judgment

Last week, the Supreme Court took suo-motu notice and stayed a ruling of the Allahabad High Court which, according to headlines had held that "grabbing of breasts" and "loosening of pyjama string" does not amount to a charge for attempt to rape. The High Court delivered a judgment in an alleged attempt to rape case of a minor girl by two perpetrators. The judge dismissed the charge differentiating between preparation and actual attempt to commit an offence. The SC's out-of-turn intervention is unfortunate and premature which does not augur well for fearless and independent adjudication of cases. The Allahabad High Court has given this country many of its finest jurists and some of the most fearless judgments. Yet, it has made some shocking pronouncements in the last few years, especially regarding personal liberty and freedom of choice. However, I am afraid though that the recent judgment in which the High Court found the material insufficient to constitute "attempt to rape" may not fall under this category. It led to senior lawyers calling for the judge to be sensitised on issues of gender and sexual violence, while some have even hinted at the judge being unfit to perform judicial duties. The Supreme Court, having dismissed a PIL on the subject, went on to take suo-motu cognizance and stayed the judgment while making some oral observations which can be seen as damaging the professional reputation of the High Court judge.

At the time of writing this piece, I have no access to the pre-summoning evidence recorded in the case, so the facts are being taken at face value from what is reproduced in the High Court order. It emerges from the order that the prosecution case is that on account of eye-witnesses coming to the spot, the accused persons fled and left the minor victim behind. It is alleged that they had grabbed her breast, and while one accused was dragging her under the culvert, her pyjama string was also broken. There is no allegation of any other overt act by the accused persons in so far as the purported offence of attempt to rape is concerned.

The judgment of the High Court painstakingly reproduces the facts and applies the classic Rex v James Lloyd test to conclude that in this case the offence was restricted to the stage of preparation and did not transcend into the realm of attempt. There is a thin line between these two concepts in criminal law. The difference between the two lies in the varying degree of determination to commit the offence, and the stage of attempt is said to commence after completion of the stage of preparation. This is well settled in the judgment of Aman Kumar vs State of Haryana (2004) 4 SCC 379, which distinguishes attempt from preparation by holding that "attempt" is the direct movement towards the commission of crime whereas "preparation" involves arranging the means to attempt commission of the crime. There are a line of SC judgments which have stood the test of time place the threshold of attempt to rape very high and require the accused to have attempted to penetrate the victim. It can therefore be argued that the view of the Allahabad High Court was very much in consonance with the law as enunciated in judgments like Taarkeshwar Sahu v State of Bihar. In this case, the Court held that in the absence of any attempt to penetrate, the conviction under Section 376/511 IPC is wholly illegal and unsustainable.



People chant slogans in support of Palestine during a rally in Egypt.

Did Musk ask Trump to reverse new tariffs, here is what we know

Washington (Agency): Tech-billionaire and Tesla CEO Elon Musk made direct yet unsuccessful appeals to US President Donald Trump to reverse tariffs over the past weekend, Washington Post reported on Monday citing two people familiar with the matter. This exchange marks the highest profile disagreement between the President and Musk, the report said. It follows Trump's unveiling of a 10% baseline tariff on all imports to the U.S. along with higher duties on dozens of other countries.

The White House and Musk did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. Musk, a Trump adviser who has been working to eliminate wasteful U.S. public spending, called for zero tariffs between the US and Europe during a virtual interaction at a congress in Florence of Italy's right-wing, co-ruling League Party over the week-



end. Tesla has seen its quarterly sales drop sharply amid a backlash against Musk's work with a new 'Department of Government Efficiency'.

The company's shares are trading at \$233.29 as of its last close on Monday, down over 42% since the beginning of the year.

Musk has previously said that the impact of US President Donald Trump's auto tariffs on Tesla is "significant." Economists say the tariffs could reignite inflation, raise the risk of a U.S. recession and boost costs for the average U.S. family by thousands of dollars - a potential liability for a president who campaigned on a promise to bring down the cost of living.

Pakistan is not showing any mercy, is catching refugees and sending them to Afghanistan

Thousands have been deported since March 31

Islamabad (Agency). Pakistan has accelerated the deportation process after the March 31 deadline expired. Thousands of Afghan refugees are being forcibly sent back. According to local media reports, more than 944 Afghan families, including 6,700 people, have been deported from Pakistan since April 1.

The biggest deportation operation took place in Punjab province. 5,111 Afghan citizens have been sent to transit camps or detention. These included 2,301 children and 1,120 women. More than 300 Afghans were sent back to their country from Karachi. Sindh senior minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that among those deported from Karachi, there are 79 children, 37 women and 191 men. Law enforcement agencies in Rawalpindi on



Sunday detained 736 Afghan nationals, including 140 women and 164 children. They have been sent to the Afghan refugee camp near Golra Mor. Out of 736 people, 179 have been sent to Afghanistan.

According to the report, security agencies have identified 1,00,000 Afghans living in more than 150 Afghan colonies in Punjab alone. Many Afghans said

that they sold all their belongings at throwaway prices and closed their business in a hurry, due to which they suffered huge losses. At the same time, some deported people said that they were arrested by Pakistani police while working and sent to Afghanistan while their family was left behind. In the media report, Gul Mohammad told that he used

to run a small hotel business in the fruit market. Police raided him, detained him for four nights in Haji Camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and now deported him via Torkham. The Pakistani government has rejected concerns raised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies about the mass repatriation of Afghan refugees.

China censures Trump tariff 'blackmail' as market turmoil eases

Beijing says will fight to the end if Trump persists; EU floats 25% counter-tariffs on US

Beijing/Washington (Agency): China vowed not to bow to "blackmail" from the United States as a global trade war ignited by US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs showed little sign of abating on Tuesday even as battered stock markets steadied.

The rebuke came after Trump said he would impose an additional 50% duty on US imports from the world's No.2 economy on Wednesday in response to Beijing's decision to match the 34% 'reciprocal' duties Trump initially unveiled last week.

"The US side's threat to escalate tariffs against China is a mistake on top of a mistake, once again exposing the American side's blackmailing nature," China's commerce ministry said. "If the US insists on having its way, China will fight to the end."

Global markets plunge as Trump threatens China with additional 50% tariffs. The European Union proposed counter-tariffs of its own to Trump's tariff onslaught that swept up dozens of countries, sent financial markets into a tailspin and fuelled expectations that the global economy may be headed for recession.

Stock markets appeared to find a firmer footing after

a gut-wrenching few days for investors which prompted some business leaders, including those close to Trump, to urge the president to reverse course.

Japan's Nikkei index rose 6% on Tuesday, rebounding from a 1-1/2-year low hit in the previous ses-

less" tariffs. US stock futures also pointed higher after slumping to the lowest level in more than a year.

Indonesian markets were slammed, however, with stocks shedding 9% and the rupiah currency ploughing a record low as

other president would be willing to do what I'm doing, or to even go through it," he told reporters at the White House.

EUROPE EYES COUNTER-MEASURES The European Commission, meanwhile, proposed counter-tariffs of 25% on a

acceptable compromise," EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic said at a news conference.

The 27-member bloc is struggling with tariffs on autos and metals already in place, and faces a 20% tariff on other products on Wednesday. Trump has also threatened to slap tariffs on EU alcoholic drinks.

Investors and political leaders have struggled to determine whether Trump's tariffs are permanent or a pressure tactic to win concessions from other countries.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent met with Trump in Florida on Sunday. Politico reported, to urge him to emphasize striking trade deals with partners in order to reassure the markets that there is an endgame to the US strategy. Administration officials say dozens of other countries have reached out with the hope of heading off the tariffs due to take effect on Wednesday.

Trump administration officials say the president is following through on a promise to reverse decades of trade liberalization that he believes has undercut the US economy.

"He's doubling down on something that he knows works, and he's going to continue to do that," White

House economist Kevin Hassett said on Fox News. "But he is also going to listen to our trading partners, and if they come to us with really great deals that advantage American manufacturing and American farmers, I'm sure he'll listen."

BUSINESS LEADERS BAULK

Wall Street leaders issued warnings on US tariffs, with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon saying they could have lasting negative consequences, while fund manager Bill Ackman said they could lead to an "economic nuclear winter."

Ackman is one of a handful of Trump supporters who questioned the strategy. Billionaire Elon Musk, who is leading Trump's effort to slash government spending, called for zero tariffs between the US and Europe over the weekend.

On Monday, Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro dismissed the Tesla CEO as a "car assembler." Investors are now betting that the growing risk of recession could prompt the US Federal Reserve to cut rates as early as next month. Trump repeated his call for the central bank to lower rates on Monday, but Fed chief Jerome Powell has so far indicated he is in no rush.

China can spy through honeypot, US makes policy for diplomats

Washington (Agency). The US has implemented a policy to prevent its diplomats, their families and security contractors from having sexual relations with Chinese citizens. The directive was implemented by former US Ambassador Nicholas Burns in January 2025 and applies to employees of the US Embassy in Beijing and consulates in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenyang, Wuhan and Hong Kong. The policy has been created due to the growing threat of espionage, especially the possibility of Chinese intelligence agencies using personal relationships to access sensitive information, often called "honeypot" tactics. In the US, concerns about the use of honey traps by

Chinese intelligence agencies emerged after a report showed a suspected Chinese agent having relations with US politicians, including then-Congressman Eric Swalwell. However, no evidence of espionage was found.



Still, the Chinese agent's fundraising and networking efforts have raised alarms about potential honeytrap tactics targeting rising political figures. A limited edition of the rule introduced last summer barred relationships with Chinese nationals working as support staff, such as guards, at US missions. The policy extends to all Chinese nationals in China, though exemptions can be requested for pre-existing relationships. If the request is denied, the person must either end the relationship or resign their position. Violators of the rule face immediate deportation from China, potentially adding to tensions in US-China relations.

Solar Orbiter records a rare event of the Sun

Washington (Agency). A rare event of the Sun has been recorded by the Solar Orbiter of the European Space Agency (ESA). A huge rotating plasma stream was seen in the recording. On October 12, 2022, this stream was seen coming out of the Sun, which arose after a corona mass ejection (CME). According to scientists, this event can play an important role in understanding the energy process of the Sun. This stream extended for about 20 lakh kilometers and was recorded for more than three hours. This plasma stream was seen coming out from the outer layer of the Sun, called the corona. This is the same layer that is visible to the eyes during a solar eclipse.

Prince Harry was unfairly treated when stripped of UK security detail, says lawyer

London (Agency): Britain's Prince Harry gestures as he walks on the day he is expected to give evidence in his appeal against the rejection of his legal challenge to the British government's decision to take away his police protection when he is in Britain, outside the High Court in London in Britain on Tuesday. Reuters Photo Prince Harry was unfairly

city needs failed to follow its own process and perform a risk management assessment. "The appellant does not accept that bespoke means better," Fatima said. "In fact, in his submission, it means that he has been singled out for different, unjustified and inferior treatment."

Harry, whose titles include the Duke of Sussex,



treated when the UK government stripped him of his British security detail, his attorney told appeals court judges on Tuesday.

Harry, who made a rare appearance in court for the hearing, lost his government-funded protection in February 2020 after he stepped down from his role as a working member of the royal family and moved to the US. While a High Court judge ruled last year that the government panel's decision to provide "bespoke" security on an as-needed basis was not unlawful, irrational or unjustified, Harry's attorney, Shaheed Fatima, argued that a group that evaluated the Duke of Sussex's secu-

was wearing a navy blue suit and light blue tie as he sat behind his lawyer. His surprise appearance was an indication of the case's importance to him.

Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles III, has bucked royal family convention by taking the government and tabloid press to court, where he has a mixed record.

But Harry rarely shows up to court, making only a few appearances in the past two years. That included the trial of one of his phone hacking cases against the British tabloids when he was the first senior member of the royal family to enter the witness box in more than a century.

Sheikh Hasina vows return to Bangladesh, promises justice

New Delhi (Agency): The ousted Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in a social media interaction with her party Awami League supporters, has vowed to return to the country, while vouching that those targeting her party members will be brought to justice. "Allah kept me alive for a reason and the day will come when justice will be brought," the Awami League president said. She has sought refuge in India after her government fell following unprecedented student protests over a reservation row in the country last year. "I lost my father, mother, brother, everyone in one day. And then they did not let us return to the country. I know the pain of losing your own. Allah keeps protecting me, maybe he wants to get some good done through me. Those who have committed these crimes must be punished. This is my pledge," she added. In a social media interaction with her supporters, she targeted Bangladesh government interim head Muhammad Yunus, commenting that he is "someone who never loved the people."

"He loaned out small amounts at high interest rates and used the money to live lavishly abroad. We could not understand his duplicity then, so we helped him a lot. But people did not benefit. He did well for himself. Then developed a lust for power that is burning Bangladesh now," the former Bangladesh premier said. She alleged that Bangladesh has now been turned into a "terrorist country." "Our leaders and workers are being killed in a way that cannot be described. Awami League members, police officers, lawyers, journalists, artists, everyone is being targeted," she said. She also alleged that the media has been shackled in Bangladesh.



Petition for the 'Kim Soo-hyun Prevention Act' hits signature threshold, legal action likely

The controversy surrounding actors Kim Soo-hyun and Kim Sae-ron has just taken an interesting turn, one which will benefit the former of the two. Soo-hyun was accused of being in a relationship with the late Sae-ron, who was a minor at the time. Due to a loophole in the statutory rape laws of South Korea, which only protect minors from the ages of 13 to 16, Kim Soo-hyun cannot be charged due to a technicality. Soo-hyun, however, has denied that he dated the actress when she was a minor. In order to prevent this from happening in the future, a petition demanding legal reforms was curated, which demanded that all minors under the age of 19 should be protected by the legal system against sexual crimes. The reason behind the name of the proposed law was listed in the petition and read, "A paedophile who seduced and deceived a promising female actress from childhood until her death has evaded the law... We hereby petition to revise the statutory rape law under the name of the 'Kim Soo Hyun Prevention Act'". Submitted on April 5, the

signature threshold was kept at 50,000, and the petition collected 86% of the required signatures in just three days. As it has now crossed the decided threshold with 51,083 signatures, it is legible for committee-level consideration, and they will have 90 days to decide whether the proposed law goes forward for a full discussion. Soo-hyun and his family have maintained his not-guilty stance while mountains of evidence, such as pictures, letters and screenshots of conversations between him and the deceased actor have surfaced. During a press conference, he unequivocally denied the fact, "I'll address the biggest concern—I did not date the deceased when she was a minor. We dated five years ago for about a year, long before Queen of Tears aired." Several brands and shows have already cut ties with the My Love For The Star actor. The petition has demanded two crucial changes in the law; the first is to raise the statutory rape protection age, and the second is to change increasing punishment for statutory rape.



Ram Charan carries a cooker with him wherever he goes, shares wife Upasana Konidela: 'His one meal has to be Indian wherever he is in the world'

Ram Charan, who became a global name after RRR's Oscar win two years ago, loves Indian food. The actor's one meal has to be Indian, irrespective of wherever he is in the world. To attend to actor's need, his wife and entrepreneur, Upasana Kamineni Konidela carries a cooker with her to make him his favourite food. In a recent interview, the star wife shared how his habit became a business idea for her mother-in-law in her 60s.

"My husband has to eat Indian food wherever we are in the world. One meal has to be Indian", Upasana told Masoom Minawala on her YouTube channel. She added, "We try our best to search for good restaurants, but there are some staples that he loves. So my mother-in-law has created these staples into ready mixes. We take a cooker wherever we go. We put it in the shower, plug it in so we don't have fire alarm going anywhere and you have home-cooked food."

Upasana shared how her mother-in-law, Surekha Konidela, had been preparing these ready mixes for her husband Chiranjeevi and now son, Ram Charan for ages. "So many people need homemade food because after a point, they can't eat outside. My mother-in-law's ready mixes are homemade and have very short shelf life so they are very fresh. It is called Atthamma's kitchen."

Upasana shared that her mother-in-law doesn't need any financial independence. "What she needs is the fulfillment of what she is doing for her family... is going to other families. Feeding people makes her truly happy."

Surekha Konidela's business has empowered several local women of the region as well as female farmers, according to Upasana.

On the work front, Ram Charan was recently seen in the film Game Changer alongside Kiara Advani. The film, directed by S Shankar, opened to negative reviews. Now, the actor is shooting for Buchi Babu Sana's film Peddi, also starring Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role.

When Mohanlal said he was detached from 'hits and flops', but wanted to make only films 'carrying and conveying a message'

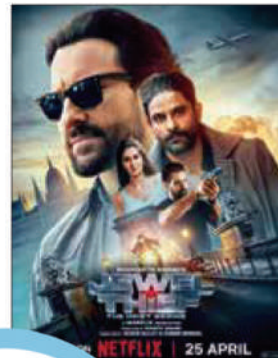
Although his fans likely hoped that he would become a national sensation with the release of actor Prithviraj Sukumaran's third directorial venture L2: Empuraan, they certainly wouldn't have, even in their wildest dreams, expected that Malayalam superstar Mohanlal would make headlines for days on end for all the wrong reasons. After immense scrutiny over the film's content, particularly the scenes set against the backdrop of the 2002

Gujarat pogrom, Team Empuraan has finally heaved a sigh of relief as the controversy appears to have started subsiding. Amid the uproar, an old interview of Mohanlal, in which he discussed the kind of movies he wishes to make, has grabbed attention. Maintaining that although monetary success is important, the Malayalam superstar expressed his desire to produce films that carry meaningful messages. "By good movies, I mean movies with a message. It is not that

I don't have an ambition to make a movie that will be appreciated all over the world. But with our budget, we will not be able to. I feel happy and good if I can make some good films; within our budget of course," he told Rediff in 1997.

When asked if he agreed with the many filmmakers who boast that they have no responsibility towards society, Mohanlal replied with a firm no. "As a producer, I will say that my film should carry and convey some message. No, I don't

want to just make any kind of movies, my primary duty is to see that my movies carry some message," he added. It's worth noting that the Malayalam superstar had produced several acclaimed films such as His Highness Abdulla, Bharatham, Kamaladalalam, Mithunam, Pingami, Kaalapani and Kanmadam in the 1990s.



'Pathaan' fame filmmaker Siddharth Anand has produced the movie with his wife Mamta Anand

then takes a wild turn. Chaos, twists and unexpected alliances unfold in this high-stakes race making it a

deadly game of deception and betrayal," according to the official logline.

The film also stars Kunal Kapoor and Nikita Dutta.

'Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins' reunites Anand and Saif after 17 years. The duo previously collaborated on 'Salaam Namaste' (2005) and 'Ta Ra Rum Pum' (2007).

'Jewel Thief: The Heist Begins' to premiere on Netflix in April

It stars Bollywood actors Saif Ali Khan and Jaideep Ahlawat

NEW DELHI: Saif Ali Khan's latest movie 'Jewel Thief: The Heist Begins' will make its debut on 'Netflix' on April 25, the streamer announced.

Also starring Jaideep Ahlawat, the heist film is directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal. 'Pathaan' fame filmmaker Siddharth Anand has produced the movie with his wife, Mamta Anand, under their banner 'Marflix Pictures'.

"The bigger the risk, the sweeter the steal. Aa raha hai the incredible - 'Jewel Thief'. Watch 'Jewel Thief', out April 25, only on 'Netflix', 'Netflix' posted on its official social media pages along with the movie's poster.

'Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins' features Saif as a jewel thief, who is hired by a powerful crime lord to steal the world's most elusive diamond - The African Red Sun.

"His perfectly planned heist



Hrithik Roshan to make DIRECTORIAL debut with 'Krrish 4'

It will be produced by 'Yash Raj Films' in association with Rakesh Roshan's 'Filmkraft Productions'

MUMBAI: Superstar Hrithik Roshan is set to make his directorial debut with 'Krrish 4', the next instalment in his blockbuster superhero franchise.

The much-anticipated film will be produced by 'Yash Raj Films' (YRF) in association with Rakesh Roshan's 'Filmkraft Productions' and is scheduled to go on floors early next year.

Hrithik, who has headlined all three previous films in the franchise, takes over the directing duties from his father Rakesh Roshan.

"I'm passing the baton of the director of 'Krrish 4' to my son, Hrithik Roshan, who has lived, breathed and dreamt about this franchise since its inception with me! Hrithik has a clear and very ambitious vision of taking Krrish's journey forward with the audience for the next decades. I couldn't be prouder to see him wear the director's hat for a film that means the world to us as a family. 'Krrish' has entertained audiences the world over and Hrithik will now



The franchise began with 'Koi... Mil Gaya', which followed Rohit Mehra, a young man with cognitive disabilities

reveal the next chapters of this superhero saga and take the vision I created so many years ago to greater heights," Rakesh Roshan said.

The director, also known for directing several successful films including 'Khoon Bhari Maang', 'Karan Arjun' and 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai', welcomed Yash Raj Films' head Aditya Chopra to the franchise.

"It was he who convinced Hrithik to sit in the director's chair. Adi and 'Yash Raj Films' have the knowledge, understanding and technological might to produce this film and add great value to

this project. Hrithik and Adi coming together as a producer-director pair with me behind them is a rare and deliciously creative combination! I'm sure they will turn 'Krrish 4' into a theatrical experience that has never been made in India. The dream is to make India proud globally with a larger-than-life experience like 'Krrish 4' he added.

The franchise began with 2003's 'Koi... Mil Gaya', which followed Rohit Mehra (Hrithik), a young man with cognitive disabilities who gains superhuman intelligence and strength after befriending an alien named Jadoo. The film was a major success and laid the foundation for India's first superhero universe, which began with its follow-up 'Krrish' in 2006. It follows Rohit's son, Krishna Mehra, who inherits superhuman abilities and takes on the superhero identity of Krrish.

The third chapter, 'Krrish 3', was released in 2013.

Prime Video announces Season 2 of 'Dupahiya'

The first season of the series captivated audiences and critics alike, earning widespread love and acclaim



Prime Video has announced that season two of their much-loved Hindi original series, 'Dupahiya', is now in development. A heartland comedy set in the fictional crime-free village of Dhadakpur, the series won over audiences with its razor-sharp humour, unforgettable characters, stellar performances and heartwarming small-town charm. The first season of 'Dupahiya' captivated audiences and critics alike, earning widespread love and acclaim and offering a wholesome family viewing experience. The nine-episode series weaves fun and drama with small-town charm, brought to life by an incredibly talented cast, including Gajraj Rao, Renuka Shahane, Bhuvan Arora, Sparsh Shrivastava, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Yashpal Sharma in key roles.

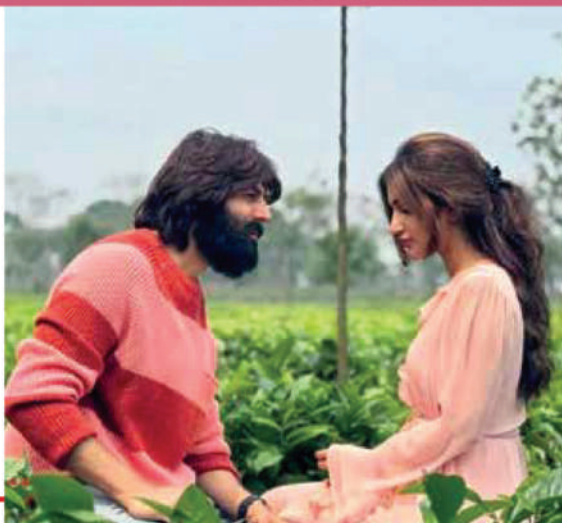
"The success of 'Dupahiya' has been nothing short of phenomenal and is a testament to the universal appeal of relatable human stories," said Nikhil Madhok, Head of Originals, 'Prime Video India'.

He added, "We are now beyond excited to bring the next chapter of this much-loved story to audiences. Salona, Shubh and Sonam, along with Avinash and Chirag, have created a spectacular world of equal parts humor and drama and seeing viewers connect with its quirky

characters has been incredibly rewarding. With the next season, we are looking forward to delivering more twists, surprises, laughter and an even wilder ride through Dhadakpur."

"Collaborating with 'Prime Video' and bringing 'Dupahiya' to life has been an incredible journey, made even more special by the overwhelming love from audiences. Witnessing the show resonating so deeply with viewers has been truly gratifying. As we gear up for season two, we are grateful for the love and appreciation and I can't wait to return to Dhadakpur. With season 2, we plan on taking things up a notch - bigger laughs, funnier moments, more thrills and even more surprises. We can't wait for viewers to dive into what's next in the world of 'Dupahiya'!" said creators and executive producers Salona Bains Joshi and Shubh Shivdasani.

ROMANCE IN THE HILLS



Kartik Aaryan and Sreeleela are shooting in the hills of Darjeeling for Anurag Basu's upcoming musical. Both the actors have been camping in North Bengal for the past few days and have shot in the picturesque locations of Doorga. Recently, Kartik shared a photograph with Sreeleela in the tea gardens of North Bengal. Basu has always returned to Darjeeling to shoot his films, be it 'Barfi' or 'Jagga Jasoos'.

Nehra taught me to be happy in difficult times: Rishabh Pant

Kolkata (Agency). After the horrific car accident in the year 2022, the biggest inspiration in the life and career of aggressive batsman Rishabh Pant was the advice of former fast bowler Ashish Nehra. Pant said that Nehra taught him to be happy in difficult times, which gave him a lot of mental strength. He said, Ashish Nehra is a senior in my club. He came to meet me and said that you are very hurt, but now you can do only one thing - keep yourself happy. Pant told that this advice proved to be very effective for his mental health. According to Pant,



the time after the injury was the most difficult phase of his life. Staying away from cricket, not being able to even brush his teeth on his own, and depending on others for every small task shook him to the core. He said, I used to play cricket

day and night and it was very difficult for me to suddenly sit in one place. I had to accept that it will not be fine in a day or two. Kept himself in restraint and stayed away from negative thinking. This accident completely changed Pant's

outlook towards life and the game. He said, when the outlook towards life changed, the outlook towards the game also changed. Now I realize how valuable even simple things like waking up, walking, brushing every day are. We take them lightly, but they are very important. Pant, who once measured success in cricket by runs and records, now considers life as the real measure of success. He said, it is not necessary to be successful every day, but one should have the passion to push oneself forward in every situation.

Mahela Jayawardene seems concerned about Mumbai Indians' powerplay performance

Mumbai (Agency). Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has expressed concern about the team's powerplay performance. After the 12-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Jayawardene said that the team's game in the powerplay, whether it was bowling or batting, was lackluster. He said that our bowlers are constantly conceding runs in the initial overs and also show less discipline at crucial moments. On Monday, Trent Boult took a wicket in the very first over, but after that Kohli and Padikkal retaliated and scored 73 runs in just six overs, in which Deepak Chahar's expensive over of 20 runs proved to be decisive. This was the



second-highest powerplay score against Mumbai at the Wankhede Stadium so far. Along with bowling, the team is also troubled by early setbacks in batting. Mumbai, who came out to chase the target, lost two wickets in four overs and the score was 54/2 by the end of the powerplay. Mumbai has lost a total of 10 wickets in the powerplay in the current season. Coach Jayawardene

said that the team had started well, but could not maintain the start. The team lost wickets early and then lost momentum. After this, some big overs came in the middle, but in the first ten overs we were not in the match. He admitted that the team needs to be more ruthless and he still has full faith in the senior players. Regarding Rohit Sharma, Mahela said that getting out against left-arm bowlers is natural and an experienced player like Rohit will definitely work on it. Statistics show that Rohit has been out 22 times in the powerplay since 2023, which is more than any batsman. However, Jayawardene justified his aggressive attitude and said that Rohit is trying to give a fast start to the team.

Shreyas, Ravindra and Duffy in the race for ICC's best award of the month of March



Dubai (Agency). The International Cricket Council (ICC) has nominated Indian team batsman Shreyas Iyer along with New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Jacob Duffy for the best male cricketer award of the month of March. Shreyas' performance has been excellent for some time. He played an important role in the Indian team's victory in the Champions Trophy. In that, Iyer scored 243 runs in five matches with the help of two half-centuries. ICC said, "This batsman scored 172 runs in three ODIs at an average of 57.33 and scored the most runs from the Indian team in the tournament. Shreyas also played an important role in the Indian team's title victory. He scored 79 runs in the Group A match against New Zealand and 45 runs in the semi-final against Australia. Apart from this, he also scored 48 runs in the final against New Zealand. According to the world cricket's top body, Shreyas' ability to play the role of the architect of the innings and make partnerships proved to be very important.

There will be a shortage of all-rounders Dravid does not like the 'Impact Player' rule

Mumbai ((Agency). Former head coach of the Indian cricket team Rahul Dravid has raised questions about the 'Impact Player' rule in IPL. According to Dravid, ever since he was the head coach of the Indian men's team, he does not like 'Impact Player' in IPL. Dravid said that he has heard about the benefits of this rule but this will lead to a shortage of good all-rounders in the coming times. Even before Dravid, many veterans had criticized this rule. The Impact Player rule was introduced in IPL 2023. Since then,



the demand for specialist players started increasing instead of all-rounders. Dravid said, "When I was the coach of the Indian team, I did not like the impact player rule very much. It does not mean that it does not make the game more competitive. It definitely does. It keeps the matches alive till the end, although it creates a different kind of problem for the national team." At the same time, the goal of a coach is to prepare better all-rounders, but this rule comes in the way of

that. He also said that earlier when 11 players from both the teams used to play, in that format some players got more opportunities to bat or bowl in different situations, but the impact player rule has changed this. Due to this rule, big scores are being seen in the tournament. Many teams are scoring more than 200 runs. This is the reason why the biggest scores in IPL history have been seen. The reason for this is that the teams have an additional specialist batsman. This means that no team is actually out of the game because it has a batsman till number nine." Earlier, many other former and current players had also criticized this rule and said that this would reduce the opportunities for all-rounders to get a place in the team.

India is a strong team, it will continue to dominate world cricket: Head

New Delhi (Agency). Australia's star batsman Travis Head has described India as the strongest team of the present time. He admitted that India will continue to dominate world cricket in the coming years as well. Head has performed brilliantly in many important matches against India in the last few years. In the World Test Championship final against India in 2023, he scored a century to give Australia the title. Despite these performances, Travis Head praised the Indian team fiercely. Head said that India has always been a strong team and its dominance will

continue in the future as well. He said that India reaches the finals of ICC tournaments and it is not going to stop. He admitted that facing a team



like India has always been a big challenge. Head said that in the last four ICC tournaments, Australia faced India in the final twice, in which they had the upper hand, but India won the last two events. Travis Head also mentioned

the pressure that always remains on the Indian team. He said that the Indian team is always burdened with expectations. This can be good for them as well as harmful. As an opposition team, sometimes it can also be taken advantage of. Talking about Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Joe Root, Head praised Kohli and Smith. He said that Virat's fitness is amazing and he brings rapid changes in his game. On the other hand, Smith is calm and has full confidence in himself. Head admitted that it may not be possible to see four such great players together again.

CSK suffers loss in IPL points table, Super Giants gain

Mumbai (Agency). There has been a slight change in the points table after Chennai Super Kings (CSK) lost against Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL). CSK has now slipped to the ninth position. In another match, Lucknow Super Giants have gained one position after their win against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Punjab Kings

won their third match this season but they are still at the fourth position while Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) are second while Gujarat Titans are third and Delhi Capitals are at number one. All the teams in the top five have won 3-3 matches but due to net run rate, Punjab's team has slipped to the fourth position at this time. At the same time,

Lucknow Super Giants have reached the fifth position with another win. Lucknow also has 6 points but the net run rate is not good. KKR, which has reached number 6, has 4 points in its account, it has won 2 out of 5 matches. Rajasthan Royals have also won two matches but since they have played only four matches, they are at number seven.

The match will start at 7.30 pm

RCB and Capitals will face each other in IPL today



- Royal Challengers Bangalore:** Rajat Patidar (captain), Virat Kohli, Yash Dayal, Josh Hazlewood, Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma, Liam Livingstone, Rasikh Salam, Suyash Sharma, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Swapnil Singh, Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Nuwan Tushara, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethell, Devdutt Padikkal, Swastik Chikara, Lungi Ngidi, Abhinandan Singh and Mohit Rathi.
- Delhi Capitals:** Axar Patel (captain), KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Jake Fraser-McGurk, Karun Nair, Faf du Plessis, Donovan Ferreira, Abhishek Porel (wicketkeeper), Tristan Stubbs (wicketkeeper), Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Darshan Nalkande, Vipraj Nigam, Ajay Mandal, Manwant Kumar, Tripurana Vijay, Madhav Tiwary, Mitchell Starc, T Natarajan, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Dushmantha Chameera, Kuldeep Yadav.

four matches. Both the teams have been successful in playing according to the situation so far. RCB's only defeat was at the hands of Gujarat Titans on this ground. On the other

hand, Delhi Capitals have won all three of their matches so far. In such a situation, the morale of the team is high. In this match, Virat will have to face the bowling of left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav

Harry Brook appointed as the new captain of ODI and T20 team



London (Agency). The England and Wales Cricket Board has appointed batsman Harry Brook as the new captain of England's ODI and T20 team. Brook has been given this responsibility at a time when the process of restructuring in England's limited overs cricket has started. This change came at a time when Jos Buttler resigned from his captaincy after England's disappointing performance in the ICC Champions Trophy. Brook has been part of England's white ball team since January 2022 and was playing the role of vice-captain for the last one year. He has also previously gained captaincy experience in the absence of Jos Buttler. He captained England in the ODI series against Australia in September last year. Brook has so far scored 816 runs in 26 ODIs at an average of 34.00, including a best score of 110 runs. In T20

Internationals, he has participated in 44 matches and played many important innings. Brook has also been a part of the 2022 T20 World Cup-winning English team. Reacting to his appointment as captain, he said that captaining England is a dream come true for him. He said, "Ever since I started playing for Yorkshire, I had dreamed that one day I would lead England. Today that dream has come true." Interestingly, Brook was bought by Delhi Capitals in the 2024 IPL auction, but he withdrew his name from the tournament in 2025 to fulfill his commitment to England. As a result, he has been banned from the IPL for two years. ECB Managing Director Rob Key said on Brook's appointment that he was already part of the succession plan, but due to circumstances, he has been given the responsibility soon.

Bengaluru (Agency). Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will play against Delhi Capitals on their home ground at M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday. An exciting contest is expected between the two teams in this match. While the RCB team will play on their home ground, Capitals will play with high morale due to being on top this season. If we look at the statistics, RCB seems to have the upper hand. If we talk about the head to head record of both the teams, RCB seems to have the upper hand. So far in the history of IPL, 12 matches have been played between Bangalore and Delhi on this ground, in which RCB has won 7 matches. Capitals' team has won only 4 matches against RCB in Bangalore. In this match, fans will get to see a contest between RCB's experienced batsman Virat Kohli and Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc playing for the Royals. Now it has to be seen who prevails. Delhi's performance has been excellent so far this season and it has won all three of its matches while RCB has won three out of

Record of dropping catches in CSK and Punjab match in IPL

Mohali (Agency). Chennai Super Kings (CSK)'s performance in the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been very poor so far and it has faced continuous defeat. The team has lost four out of five matches so far and has slipped to ninth position in the points table. The team also suffered a crushing defeat in the match played here against Punjab Kings. In this match, the team of CSK and Punjab Kings have dropped a total of 9 catches. Five catches were dropped by CSK players while four were dropped by Punjab, thus an unwanted record has been registered in the name of the team. This is a new record of dropping the most catches in any IPL match. Earlier in 2023, Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad had jointly dropped eight catches at Eden Gardens. In this match, Priyans Arya scored an aggressive century for Punjab in difficult conditions and took the team to 219 runs for 6 wickets. After this, CSK could only score 201 runs for 5 wickets while chasing the target.

Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman ready to return to PSL



Karachi (Agency). After recovering from injuries, Pakistan openers Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman are set to return to the Pakistan Super League (PSL). A source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that both these batsmen have been cleared by the board's medical panel to return to competitive cricket from the PSL starting on April 11. Saim has not played any match since the beginning of January. He fractured his ankle while fielding on the first day of the second Test against South Africa in Cape Town. Zaman was injured in the first match of the Champions Trophy. The source said that Saim has joined Peshawar Zalmi in Islamabad while Fakhar has joined Lahore Qalandars. Let us tell you that due to injury, both these players could not play in the Champions Trophy and the limited overs series against New Zealand.



We need to think today for the bright, smooth future of the coming generation: Minister in charge Patel

Instructions given in the meeting of District Planning Committee in Bhind

Delhi (Agency): The District Planning Committee meeting was held in the District Panchayat Auditorium Bhind on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Panchayat and Rural Development, Labor Minister and Minister in charge of Bhind district Prahlad Singh Patel. MLA Bhind Narendra Singh Kushwah, MLA Gohad Keshav Desai, District Panchayat President Mrs. Kamna Singh Bhadauria, Collector Sanjeev Srivastava, CEO District Panchayat Sunil Dubey, along with other officers and public representatives were present. The meeting started with the national anthem. Minister Patel reviewed the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan in the meeting and said that this campaign is an ambitious campaign of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. By storing water through this, adequate drinking water facilities can be provided to the common people. The campaign should be conducted on a large scale with the cooperation of public participation

including public representatives. He said that water sources are continuously drying up, we need to think today for the bright, smooth future of the coming generation. He said that not only planting



saplings but also making them trees is important to ensure the participation of youth in conservation and promotion of water sources and plantation. He called upon the officials present to conserve water and plant saplings for a better future. Minister Patel instructed the officials in the meeting that to solve the problem of drinking water in summer, Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan has to be conducted

on a large scale in the district. He said that for water conservation, more and more farms, ponds, river ponds should be constructed. Along with this, respected public representatives should also select such places in their respective areas and start the work. Minister Patel instructed that such hand pumps which have become defective and are not suitable for drinking water, should be removed and made suitable for rain water conservation, so that at least the amount of water that has been taken out through that hand pump can be returned to the land through rain water. Minister Patel reviewed the availability of drinking water

in the area and said that where there was a problem of drinking water in the district last year and what is the status of the drinking water problem at present. He inquired about the efforts and action plan made to solve the drinking water crisis. He directed that in view of the summer season, the drinking water system should be kept smooth in all circumstances. Such arrangements should be ensured so that no citizen faces the problem of drinking water and does not have to wander here and there. While reviewing the procurement, Minister Patel inquired about the centers set up last year for wheat and mustard procurement and the centers set up this year. He directed that proper arrangements should be made so that there is no chaos or dispute at the procurement centers. He inquired about the roads currently in progress in the district under the third and fourth phases of the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and gave necessary guidelines. He inquired about the progress of transfer, partition,

demarcation, Aadhaar seeding in the Revenue Maha Abhiyan. Minister Patel inquired about encroachment free Muktidham, encroachment free temple and landless Muktidham in the district. He directed that ensure that the Muktidhams and temples which are encroached should be freed. All public representatives and the administration should together see and identify how many landless Muktidhams there are and where the Muktidhams are to be built. After reviewing the MP Electricity Board, he took information about the timeline of starting and completion of the work of the sub-stations under progress in Lahar, Bhind, Mehgaon and Gohad and gave necessary directions. Minister Patel, while taking information about the works being done through the departments, gave instructions to ensure progress within the time limit. He also gave necessary directions regarding effective implementation of schemes at the field level.

Conserve every drop of water: Minister Silawat

Shramdaan done near Kerwa Dam under Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan



Bhopal (Agency): Water Resources Department Minister Tulsi Ram Silawat on Wednesday did Shramdaan near Kerwa Dam under Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan. On this occasion, he called upon all the citizens present to conserve every drop of water. Minister Silawat said that Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan is being run in the state from 30 March to 30 June to fulfill the resolution of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and to conserve rivers and ponds. In this campaign, works of conservation of water sources, water conservation and promotion are being done on a large scale. He said that everyone should make this campaign successful with their active participation. MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, MLA Vishnu Khatri, Tirath Meena, District Panchayat President Pramod Rajput, Sarpanch Mrs. Meera Tomar, Environmentalist Abhilash Khandekar, Departmental Officers and a large number of villagers were present in the Shramdaan program organized for water conservation and promotion near Kerwa Dam, Bhopal. Minister Silawat directed the officials to beautify and deepen the water sources. He

also gave strict instructions to immediately remove all types of encroachment on the ponds of the Water Resources Department. Silawat said that the solution to the water crisis lies in the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan. Taking inspiration from the famous Halma tradition of Jhabua district, he urged everyone to do Shramdaan for at least 1 hour in their life. Minister Silawat informed that the resolution of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's river linking campaign has been fulfilled by the Madhya Pradesh government through Ken-Betwa and Parvati-Kalisindh river linking projects in the state. He informed that availability of water is being ensured in Bundelkhand region through Ken-Betwa river linking project. Silawat also spoke about the target of increasing the irrigation area from 65 thousand hectares to 100 lakh hectares in Madhya Pradesh in the next five years. Minister Silawat made all the people present there take a pledge to protect and conserve water resources. He said that this campaign belongs to all of us and the foundation of its success rests on the active participation of every citizen.

BRIEF NEWS

Delhi MCD Mayor Election: BJP eyes AAP's chair here too

Delhi (Agency): Arvind Kejriwal is getting shock after shock. He lost the chair and the government in the Delhi elections. Now the 'mini government' of Aam Aadmi Party is also in danger. Yes, we are talking about MCD. BJP has now started making the path of Aam Aadmi Party difficult in MCD. BJP now has its eyes on the mayor's chair. (New Delhi) The position of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) seems to be weakening before the upcoming mayor election. BJP is putting in all its strength for the mayor election to be held this month i.e. in April. BJP currently has 113 votes while the majority figure is 132-133. However, the party has not been able to fulfill its election promises. Major promises like removing landfill, regularizing contract employees and solving the parking problem are still unfulfilled. In the 2025 assembly elections, AAP suffered a crushing defeat and its seats decreased from 62 to 22. This has weakened its political position. BJP now seems confident of returning to MCD again.

A young man who had returned from abroad had sin on his mind, suddenly a knocking sound started coming and officers came running

Delhi (Agency): A case has come to light at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, which has shocked the officers of all agencies including the Air Intelligence Wing. Actually, this case is of Terminal 3 of IGI Airport and is related to a young man who has returned from abroad. Under this case, the knocking sound coming from this young man who had returned from abroad exposed his misdeeds and put him behind bars. According to a senior officer of the Customs' Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), this young man had reached IGI Airport on 7 April at around 3 pm by Iraqi Airlines flight AI-443. This young man took his luggage from the baggage belt and moved ahead with full confidence. Seeing him, no one could say that a 'sin' and a deep conspiracy was going on in his mind. He told that this young man was passing through the customs green channel, when the AIU officers heard a strange sound. On hearing the sound, the AIU officers stopped him and diverted him to the security channel. During the security, a loud beep sound told the AIU that the intentions of this young man were not good. When searched, some coins, rings and other items were recovered from his pocket.

Heavy rain will occur in Delhi-NCR for two days, temperature will fall drastically

Delhi (Agency): The night temperature in Delhi-NCR is going to be equal to the day, due to which the Indian Meteorological Department has issued a warning of warm night i.e. very hot nights today. Today the night will be very hot in Delhi and the day will also be very hot. Heatwave will continue. This yellow warning has been issued by the India Meteorological Department for Delhi including Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon. Along with this, people have also been warned to be careful today, but from tomorrow the weather will take a big turn. Winds will blow at 30 to 40 kmph and the India Meteorological Department has forecast rain from 10 to 11 April, due to which the temperature will drop drastically.

Dry waste is being processed through 360 material recovery facilities in the state

- A modern CNG plant of 500 tonnes per day capacity is operating in Indore
- Centre approves Rs 5,914 crore to make all cities garbage free

Bhopal (Agency): Grants are being given to urban bodies in the state for the development of garbage collection, transportation and processing facilities in urban bodies. Along with this, the central government has approved Rs 5,914 crore to make all cities of the state garbage free. Wet waste is

being processed through composting units in 405 urban bodies of the state and dry waste is being processed through 360 material recovery facilities. A state-of-the-art plant of 500 tonnes per day capacity is being operated through the Gobardhan Bio CNG Plant unit in Indore. The concept of waste-to-wealth and circular economy has come true from the Indore plant. Apart from CNG, 100 tonnes of high quality manure is also being produced daily from the Indore plant. It is being used in local farms around Indore city. This has reduced the need for chemical fertilizers in the fields. The Urban Development Department has prepared an action plan for disposal of legacy waste

located in urban bodies. A program has been prepared to

state has been completed. In the second phase, the work of

Mission Urban 2.0 in the state, approval for schemes



complete this work 100% in the next 3 years. So far, 100% legacy waste processing work of 50 local bodies in the

processing legacy waste in 108 urban bodies is in process at various stages. Under Swachh Bharat

worth Rs 4,914 crore has also been received in the next 5 years for making all cities garbage free and wastewater

management. For this work, the Urban Development Department has made a provision of about Rs 473 crore for the financial year 2025-26. The Urban Development and Housing Department is providing 50 percent of the solid waste management project cost of the bodies for cities with a population of more than 10 lakh, 66 percent for a population of one to 10 lakh and 90 percent for bodies with a population of less than one lakh as grant. The remaining amount is the contribution of the body and public private partnership. The waste generated on a daily basis in the bodies is disposed of on the basis of the prescribed procedure and norms.

First there was doubt in the X-ray screening, then the DFMD beeped and there was a stir



Delhi (Agency): The Customs Department has busted a big smuggling racket at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. An Iraqi passenger was arrested while trying to smuggle 1.2 kg gold (worth about Rs 1 crore). This gold was hidden in the form of silver-coated jewellery in a trolley bag, but it was identified with the help of DFMD (door frame metal detector) and X-ray scanning. On April 7, an Iraqi passenger of flight IA-443 from Baghdad to Delhi was stopped while exiting through the green channel of Terminal-3. During the screening of the bag in the X-ray, the presence of unusual metal was seen. A loud alarm sounded when the passenger passed through the door frame metal detector, after which he was thoroughly examined. During the investigation, 1203 grams of mixed yellow metal (suspected to be gold) was found, which was hidden in silver jewellery. This device can detect even the smallest metal objects (clip, knife, gun). It tells the exact location of metal hidden in different parts of the body. It has the ability to ignore the metal of belt buttons or shoes. The case is being investigated under the Customs Act, 1962.

Claim of Saurav Bhardwaj, the person who increased school fees, turned out to be close to CM Rekha Gupta

Delhi (Agency): When the Aam Aadmi Party government came to power, they claimed to bring an education revolution in Delhi. After the Rekha Gupta government came to power, the issue of fee hike by private schools is hot these days. Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi convenor Saurav Bhardwaj came in front of the media and made serious allegations against the new CM Rekha Gupta. Bhardwaj said that Bharat Arora, a close aide of the CM, was behind the fee hike. It was claimed that Bharat Arora, president of Action Committee of Private Unaided Schools, is an active member of BJP and has also campaigned for CM Rekha Gupta. Saurabh Bhardwaj said, "For the last 50 days we were saying that the BJP government is working against the poor and the middle class. Now we will prove with evidence that this is a big conspiracy." He



claimed that since April 1, parents have been protesting outside schools in the heat, but the BJP government is silent. Bhardwaj presented Bharat Arora's social media posts as evidence. He said, "Action Committee President Bharat Arora campaigned in favour of BJP. Before the formation of the government in Delhi on February 5, he wrote - 'BJP is coming, lotus will be the election symbol.' He is a member of the BJP state executive and has been campaigning for Rekha Gupta in her Shalimar Bagh assembly constituency.

Saurav Bhardwaj said that Bharat Arora has put up a BJP flag at his house and played an active role in the Chief Minister's election campaign. This is a complete conflict of interest. As soon as the government was formed, schools increased the fees, but no BJP leader went in support of the protesters. The AAP leader said that whenever a circular was issued to increase the fees earlier, Bharat Arora's committee used to fight in its favor in the High Court and Supreme Court, while the Delhi government used to oppose it.

Woman extorted four lakhs by trapping him in rape case

Delhi (Agency): A case has been registered against Karuna Shisodia in Nandgram police station for extorting four lakh rupees from relatives through a person after trapping a youth in a false rape case. In this, the woman has been accused of blackmailing people by forming a gang. The victim alleges that Karuna Shisodia had told that she has been a BJP worker for three years and has relations with the MLA and MP. She will get the rape accused released by changing the statement of the girl. When the victim asked for the money given when the youth was not released, she was also threatened to be sent to jail. ACP Poonam Mishra said that a report has been registered in the matter and investigation is being done. Accused Karuna Shisodia has called the allegations false. Riyazuddin, a resident of Noornagar, Sihani, said that he works to install CCTV cameras. He had also installed CCTV cameras at Karuna's house.